



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister God's Gift of Love



Rev. Carla Aday

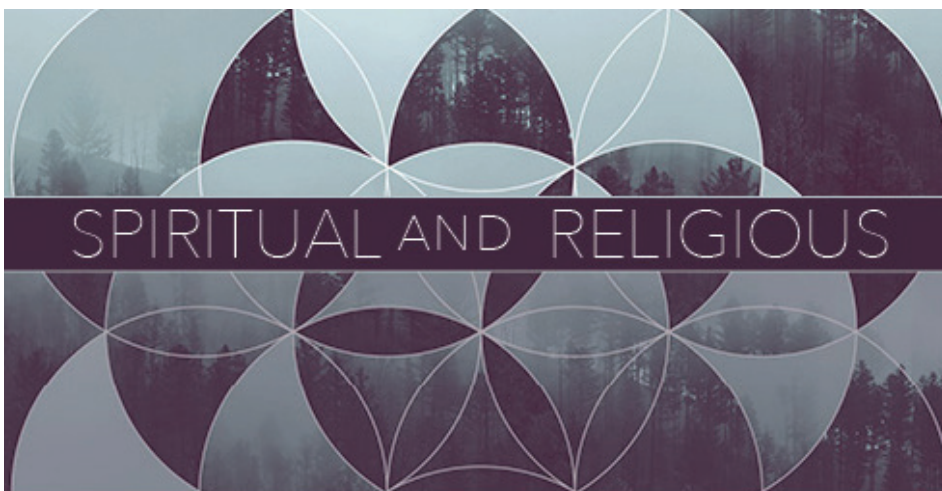
Their love was forbidden. Their marriage was a secret. They lived most of their days apart and in solitude. But nothing could thwart their devotion to each other. It

was medieval France and priests were not allowed to marry. His name was Peter of Abelard and her name was Heloise. The story of their romance is told in the novel *The Cloister* by James Carroll.

But the love story spilled out beyond the confines of the cloister. In real life, Peter of Abelard pushed the church to expand its philosophy on who God loves. He taught that God loved those from other religious traditions. Many sought to silence him. But Heloise, plotted to keep his writings from being destroyed.

The novel reminded me that God's gift of love cannot be contained. The love that we celebrate on Valentine's Day is not simply a sweet romance or affection between family or friends but the same gift that God gives to all creation and all people on the planet. The Bible reminds us that no one has seen God but that if we love, God abides in us. (1 John 4). And the modern author C.S. Lewis says, if you want to keep your heart intact, you must give your love to no one, not even to an animal.

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Lenten Sermon Series Begins in March

Today more than ever before folks describe themselves as spiritual but not religious. During the season of Lent, we will look at how spiritual and religious are different and the same. Are they mutually exclusive or complimentary? Can prayer, meditation, yoga and running be vehicles for the Spirit? Is the world of service and social justice part of the path that leads to wholeness? And what about this Jesus who prayed "not my will but thine be done?" Would you say he was bucking religion or proclaiming a new way to be spiritual? Join us Sundays, Mar. 10-Apr. 14 at 9:01, 10:00 or 11:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday is March 6

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, which ends on Easter Sunday. The 40 days of Lent are a time of pondering our mortality and of remembering our reliance upon God. In many ways, the season corresponds to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness and Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness, both a journey of sorts. The first service of Lent invites us into this journey with a traditional imposition of ashes to symbolize the fragile nature of our lives. We invite you to join us. Wed., Mar. 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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From the Senior Minister

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We used to talk about three kinds of love: eros, phila and agape; that is romance, friendship and God's unconditional love. But really there is only one love. The love that comes from God that we offer to one another.

The true test of our faithfulness is not what we believe but how we love.

Grace and peace,

Carla

Partnership Sunday is February 24

Partnership Sunday is a time to celebrate the church's Mission and Outreach partnerships with Kansas City organizations and neighborhoods who share a vision for creating a thriving community. Representatives from partners agencies will participate in worship, will be in the parlor between services for conversation and connection, and all are invited for fellowship at lunch in the Social Hall. Join us in thanking our partners, learning more about our shared work, and continuing our efforts in alleviating hunger, empowering children to learn, and moving people from poverty to self-sufficiency.



Celebration Dinner and Auction

Save the date for the 2019 Celebration Dinner and Auction on Fri., Mar. 8 from 6:30-10:00 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery, 2501 Southwest Boulevard. Tickets and benefactor packages are available in the parlor on Sundays, or at cccckc.org/2019-dinner-auction. For a sneak peek at some of the live auction items that will be available, stop by the parlor table or visit the link.

This year's Fund-A-Need project is Youth Missions, including the summer 2019 high school trip to Ecuador. Our high school team and adult sponsors will be working with FEDICE, an organization whose mission is to empower indigenous and marginalized communities in the Ecuadorian Andes to break the cyclical chains of poverty, discrimination, and injustice. Funds will also support the Middle School mission trip and our partnership with CEPAD in Nicaragua.

Leadership Nominations Underway

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2019-2020 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. Nomination forms are available in the parlor on Sundays, or online at www.cccckc.org/leadership-nominations. Deadline is Mar. 31.

Preparing for our 100th Anniversary

Centennial Conversations

As Country Club Christian Church makes plans to celebrate its centennial during 2020-2021, you're invited to a Centennial Conversation to talk and dream about the church's next 100 years. Join Mary McClure and David Forsee in the library on Sun., Feb. 17, at either 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. to be a part of this discussion.

Steering Team

A steering team led by Peter and Lesley Holt and honorary chairs Tom Van Dyke and Kay Barnes has already begun meeting to plan this momentous occasion. They are joined by: Linna Place – History; Leeann Blundell – Events; Dan Jensen – Building; David Forsee, Mary McClure and Amy Guthrey – Gifts.



reflections

One Giant Leap for Mankind

Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



Email ads almost never make my heart soar. But this one did. Late the other night I received an ad for t-shirts commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Apollo XI mission.

The 50th anniversary of walking on the moon?! Groovy!

My whole being was once again that jumble of awe and pride and humility and excitement and hope I had experienced as a scrawny kid all those years ago. The moon walk had not crossed my mind in – oh, I can't even guess how long. I jumped on the NASA pages and re-read the mission synopsis. I surfed through the Apollo archives. I ended the night by reverently scrolling through photographs of the Blue Marble from points far, far outside our orbit.

For many of you who are reading this, the lunar landing may seem anything but exciting. It could be just dusty history that is not even covered in school anymore. Or, maybe you only know the moon walk as yet another example of how we as a species sometimes achieve, but can rarely sustain, greatness.

To be fair, that era of the space program was a long time ago and did have its shadow side. Space exploration was (still is) dangerous and people and other animals lost their lives. It cost a lot of money and overshadowed social needs. Military applications for the technology marched side-by-side with the humanitarian advances. Space became yet another theater for the Cold War. The contributions of women and people of color were mostly overlooked (as depicted in the excellent feature film “Hidden Figures”).

But for those of us who experienced it “live,” Commander Neil Armstrong, stepping down onto the lunar surface and uttering those famous words, “...one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind” was breathtaking. It was an epiphany, transcending not only humanity’s physical but also our spiritual constraints. I know for me, and I imagine for most of the 530 million people who watched, our essential oneness was profoundly apparent in that instant. And we experienced ourselves as part of God’s intricate and endless creation as never before. That foot settling into the primordial lunar dust belonged to each and all of us.

Perhaps the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 comes at an auspicious time. Today we face scientific and social challenges beyond our imagination as we begin to grapple with the effects of climate change. Everywhere we turn we encounter seemingly impenetrable divisiveness, sometimes in our own families and certainly between parties, religions, and nations on a myriad of issues. All of this can seem so overwhelming we may be tempted to despair or to just look away. Great moments in history, such as the moon walk remind us that we can unite around worthy goals, harness our resources, and aspire to be the people that God created us to be. 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

February 17

Upside Down: Part 3- Integrity
Luke 6:39-49

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

February 24

Upside Down: Part 4
Luke 7:1-10

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday
Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Guest Gathering

Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee on Sun., Feb. 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brides' Room. 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. RSVP to Barbara George, 816- 381-9251.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Pathways to Learning

"Race, Equity and the Christian Response"

The current Pathways to Learning series is examining race and equity in our lives, our city and our Christianity. 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m., Social Hall

Sun., Feb. 17 – Nick Pickrell from the Open Table, a community organization based on grass roots hospitality, will lead a conversation on breaking barriers to understanding.

Monday Evening Classes with Dr. Graves

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

From Pew to Pulpit

Feb. 18, 25 – Sermons mostly go in one direction, from pulpit to pew. Preachers talk and 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.

Understanding Your Grief Series

Join us for Understanding Your Grief: 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." Everyone is welcome for this 10 week book discussion. Workbook \$15. Rm. 207. Thursdays, Mar. 7-May 9, 2:00-3:30 p.m. For information: 816-381-9249 or joew@cccckc.org.

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. . No classes weeks of spring break (Mar. 12/13), or Holy Week (Apr. 16/17), and ends week of Apr. 30/May 1.

faith
book

Faithpub

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, this men's group meets for beer and conversation, with a guest speaker each session. Meets at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd. Wed., **Feb 20:** Rev. Darryl Burton, an associate pastor at Church of the Resurrection who was falsely imprisoned for more than twenty years and now is an advocate for social justice. Thurs., **March 21:** Judge Stephen Bough, a member of Country Club Christian Church who is a federal judge, will discuss restorative justice and the federal reentry program.



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., Red Door Grill.

Feb. 28 – Kay Barnes, former mayor of Kansas City and member of Country Club Christian Church

Mar. 28- Rev. Shanna Steitz, Senior Minister at Community Christian Church on the Plaza

Music Series

Kansas City Guitar Society Artist Series Fri., Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m. Rupert Boyd. General admission: \$20; KCGS and church members: \$17; Students: \$15

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.

Metro Mission

Save the Date for Grace at Work

The spring Grace at Work service day is Sat., Mar. 30. Join us as we take on spring cleaning projects on our church campus. Sign up soon!

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 or contact Corey Meyer at coreym@cccckc.org



a message from staff

Reflections on Pathways

Anne Haraughty, Ministries Coordinator



If you were fortunate enough to attend Pathways to Learning last Sunday morning, you may still be digesting the information that was presented. Pakou Ker, Principal and Lead Organizer of the Tseng Development Group, led the first of two sessions concerning racial equity. She challenged us to name the subgroups that have the most power

and access to opportunities in the United States. We named whites, men, wealthy, nuclear families, citizens, English speakers, and on and on. PaKou explained that one reason the unbalanced power system remains intact is that it is designed so that those in the preferred groups do not realize that they are preferentially treated. It's impossible to address and fix a problem that isn't recognized as a problem to those holding the most power. By recognizing our own privilege, we begin to see the inequities in the power structure of the United States.

PaKou also shared personal experiences from her childhood. Her refuge family was "adopted" by a church in her new community when they first came to the United States. She recalled that the church seemed to have very good intentions, but many of their actions, comments and expectations of Pakou's family were insensitive and unkind. Pakou recounted that some of the encounters with the adoptive church were the worst discrimination her family has ever suffered. Hearing that made my heart hurt. The church was well intentioned, but misguided in how to serve and support PaKou's family, causing the family great pain.

While PaKou's session was powerful, it only scratched the surface of a tough topic. This conversation requires diligence, honesty and candor. We have to face unpleasant truths about ourselves, our community, and our world in our quest for positive changes.

Whether or not you were able to attend Pathways to Learning last Sunday, you will not want to miss session two, led by Nick Pickrell with the Open Table, when we continue the conversation in the Social Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sun., Feb. 17. <https://theopentablekc.com>

Also, if you'd like to hear more from PaKou, she will be speaking at the next session for the Mayor's KC Race Initiative at the Gem Theater on Feb. 26 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. 🍷

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

David Long
Esther "Chris" Rice

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.

Jim Love
Pat Martin
Deb and Dave Plucknett
Delvin and Ellen Sutton, *Assistance League of KC*

Lou Ann Snyder
James and Patricia Baker
Larry and Donna Beer
Jane Burns
Deb and Dave Plucknett
Kevin and Debra Sanders
Dixie Ubben

MaryAnn Liveley
Deb and Dave Plucknett



Second Annual Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Mark your calendar now! Fri., Sept. 27, at noon. Watch for more information.

Youth Ministries

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) for more information or to sign up.

Lock-In

High school youth are invited to a lock-in on Sat., Feb., 16, at 6:30 p.m. We will eat and play pickleball at Chicken N Pickle and spend the night at the church before worshipping together on Sunday morning. Cost is \$25 (financial assistance available); RSVP to April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Chi Rho Midwinter Retreat at Tall Oaks

The Midwinter retreat, Feb. 22-23, will be a great time for middle school youth (grades 6-8) to gather with others from Disciples of Christ churches across the Kansas City area for games, outdoor activities, and worship. The cost is \$80. Registration and more information is available at this link. With questions, contact Rev. Kristin Dow at kristin@newsongkc.org, or Tyler at tylerh@cccckc.org, who will be attending as a chaperone.

Youth Group Tubing at Weston

Feb 24. We will gather at 11:00 a.m. for lunch, depart by 11:30 and return to the church by 4:15 p.m. \$30 per person. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

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).

Children and Families

Children's Musical

Join the Children's Choir on Mar. 3 at 10:00 a.m. for a special musical performance of "Big Shot!" Grades K-5 are invited to participate. Rehearsals are on Sundays at 9:45 a.m., second floor.



Club Kids Tubing at Weston

Feb 24. We will gather at 11:00 a.m. for lunch, depart by 11:30 and return to the church by 4:15 p.m. \$30 per person. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Omaha Zoo Aquarium Overnight Trip

Club Kids (grades 3-5) will go on an overnight trip to the Omaha Zoo Aquarium, March 9-10. Save the date! Contact April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org. for more information.

Moms' Meet Up at the Nelson

Join other parents of young children for a tour of the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, led by Dr. Graves. Child-care will be available by reservation, \$10/child.Fri., Mar. 15, 10:00 a.m. Contact Lindsay Howes, lindsayh@cccckc.org, for more information and to reserve your spot.

Parent Information Night: Self-Help Skills and Kindergarten Readiness

Get expert advice from our Pre-K teachers about how to help your little one work towards being more independent and school ready. Bring your questions and struggles. Wed., Mar. 27, 6:00 p.m., Rm. 206.





Club Kids went to Harvesters Community Food Network for a service project on Sun., Feb. 3. They packed back snacks and relabeled hundreds of cheese packets.



Skylar Mosley, Kenzie Mosley, (pictured above left), Caroline Schopp (picture above right) and other youth collected donations for Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 3.



On Sun., Feb. 10, we celebrated 96 years of Scouting at Country Club Christian Church. The Scouts and leaders of Cub Pack 84 and Scout Troop 84, as well as other Scouts from our church were here to thank the congregation for its longtime support.

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SAVE THE DATES



Children's Musical

Sun., Mar., 3, 10:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday

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

Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 8, 6:30 p.m., Boulevard Brewery

Grace at Work

Sat., Mar. 30. Join us for a fun-filled half-day
service event open to all ages and abilities.

Spring Fling

Sun., Apr. 7, noon- 2 p.m.

Lunch, Activities and Egg Hunt on the Lawn

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 or 816-381-9255 for
more information.

Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, at noon.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

