



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister

## What Is Saving Your Life?



Rev. Carla Aday

**W**hat is saving your life right now? Years ago Barbara Brown Taylor was invited to speak at an Episcopal church. “What should I

talk about?” she asked the priest. “Just talk about what is saving your life right now,” the priest responded.

It’s a wonderful question that rolls around in my brain sometimes. In my father in law’s final week of life on this earth, the pain became difficult to manage. One day the hospice nurse administered some morphine and he grimaced at the terrible taste in his mouth. His daughter leaned in to stroke his arm and tears spilled down her cheeks. Though his voice was weak, Dad mouthed to her, “It’s ok, sweetie” Through those brutally heavy days, what saved us was seeing his gentle kindness. We held on to each other. Seeing the family reach out with love and compassion, weeping together, that saved us too.

Over the past several months, I got to sit with several church members to dialogue about our 100 year heritage and ponder our next 100 years. One member told me “the church completely changed my life.” And another said “the church helped us become a family.” Every person I talked to acknowledged the shifting

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## Spring Fling is Apr. 7

All are invited to join us as we welcome spring with the annual Easter egg hunt on Sun., Apr. 7 at noon. Much fun for all: a petting zoo, outdoor activities, and egg hunt. The Easter bunny will be there to welcome all! Lunch will be served. Invite your friends and neighbors and come ready to celebrate spring!

## Holy Week

**Palm Sunday Worship** – April 14. Children are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors’ Class participants. Rev. Carla Aday preaching.

**Maundy Thursday** – April 18, 7:00 p.m. In remembrance of Jesus’ last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion. Rev. Tyler Heston preaching.

**Good Friday** – April 19, 12:15 p.m. (prelude at noon) Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar. Dr. Mike Graves preaching.



## Easter Sunday Is April 21

**Special Service Times** – 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Rev. Aday preaching. 8:00 a.m. service in the Combs Chapel featuring instrumentalists and soloist Alex Goering. 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services in the Sanctuary featuring the Kansas City Brass, Chancel Choir, and soloist Alex Goering. Child care available for all services. Sunday school will not meet.

**Complimentary Hot Easter Breakfast** 8:00-9:15 a.m., Social Hall.

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## From the Senior Minister

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cultural trends that adversely affect the church. It is no secret that church membership and church participation in the U.S. is on a downward trajectory. But at the same time, the messages I kept hearing from young and old was that the church was pivotal in their own personal formation, a spiritual anchor. These conversations were life-saving to me. They reminded me that the church is not just a cultural institution, a pretty building, or a dinosaur, but rather a group of folks who seek the life changing love of God. It gave me courage and hope to hear that God is still whispering and shouting, still challenging and comforting, inside these old stone walls and shimmering stained glass.

As we journey through Lent, let's keep asking ourselves, "What is saving my life right now?" Because the God who walked around in the person of Jesus 2000 years ago, still moves and breathes in our world today. We experience some terrible days and some joyful ones. Much of that is beyond our control. But we can keep asking "What is saving your life right now?" Is it a friend, a spouse, a garden, a song, a job, a child, a dream, a goal? Asking the question may help us experience the Christ who went to the cross for love and rose again. It is more than an old story. It is happening to us today.

Grace and peace,

*Carla*

## Easter Offering 2019: Community Sustainability

The conversation across our planet in the 21st century is what does a sustainable, responsible, and forward-thinking community of the future look like? It's beyond a conversation of social issues, it's a moral and religious one as well. This year, our Easter Offering recipients are two organizations that are paving the way for a sustainable future one community at a time.

Bridging the Gap, located here in Kansas City, and AMANECER 2025 (The Alliance for Sustainable Resource Management) located in Puerto Rico are leading efforts to help their communities get ready for the future. Both organizations are bringing together environment, economy and community to address how to be resilient toward natural disasters and leave a positive legacy for generations. From projects on recycling, education, solar energy, water conservation, and re-growth of the earth's vital forest systems, Bringing the Gap and AMANECER are truly leading the world with grassroots efforts.

To give to the Easter Offering, visit [cccckc.org/give](http://cccckc.org/give), or leave your check in the offering plate on Sunday.



## Pick-Up Choir and Pick-Up Orffestra Opportunities

Share your musical talents on Sun., Mar. 31. The Pick-Up Choir will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room to sing "Abide with Me" during the 11:00 a.m. service. This is your opportunity to sing with Dr. Paul Tucker and not have to attend a Wednesday rehearsal to do so. The Pick-Up Orffestra will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to rehearse under the direction of Tepring Crocker. The ensemble will also present a musical offering in the 11:00 a.m. service that day. All interested parties strongly encouraged!

## Easter at The Well

The Well has new books and gift items for Easter and spring. They would make perfect Easter gifts for your children or grandchildren!

Enhance your Lenten journey with daily devotions. A wide variety of devotional books for Lent are available, by Ann Weems, Richard Rohr, Walter Brueggemann, Pope Francis and others.





## Notes of the Unknown

Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth



*"I'm the only girl in my P. E. class."*

*"I didn't know my friend was adopted."*

*"I remember being overwhelmed the first day of calculus, when I was the only freshman in an all-junior class."*

*"I didn't know that childhood friend was actually a second-cousin."*

The high schoolers at last week's Ecuador team meeting gave such answers in response to two questions. First, when were you in a situation in which you felt that you did not belong? Second, when was a time that you found out something surprising about someone you knew well? Each answer by itself was just a fleeting reminder of moments that confronted us with the unknown; together, everyone's stories created a palpable sense of how much is unknown in the world.

These discussion questions were a little icebreaker that kicked off our meeting, a way to get to know each other a little bit better and to warm our minds to the deeper discussion about being in a foreign country. Eighteen of us are traveling to Otavalo, Ecuador, in June — 15 high schoolers, Lori Bennett, Nancy Lear, and myself — to spend a week learning about and supporting a nonprofit that works with community development in rural communities across the country. We're excited to travel together to a new part of the globe with two missions in mind: to serve and to learn.

We will serve by partnering with people working on a daycare building that offers accessible childcare for working mothers. We will learn a lot. We'll learn about daycare buildings in Ecuador, and we'll about day-to-day life in rural Ecuador — a place very different from urban and suburban America. We're going to learn new foods, meet new people, and new words in a different language. We're going to learn new ways that people flourish and thrive with far fewer resources than most of us have. We're going to learn new ways to think about God from the new people we meet. We will feel like we don't belong, and we will be surprised by things we learn. We're going to see that there is indeed much in the world that we didn't know.

The unknown can be scary, especially when you're confronted by it by travelling to a new part of the world. Yet, the unknown can also be a sacred, vital balance to the known. God is not just in things that are familiar but is also in things that are new, different — in things unknown. Author and speaker Rob Bell talks about how things like knowing and unknowing or faith and doubt "are not opposites; they're dance partners. It's possible to hold your faith with open hands, living with great conviction and yet at the same time humbly admitting that your knowledge and perspective will always be limited."

Our week in Ecuador will give us a chance to practice dance as we explore the harmonies of unknown, and I can't wait to come home to hear the harmonies more clearly in our everyday life. I pray when we return, this hearing is contagious, and that we will help show you that everyday is filled with awesome unknowns that contain the presence of divine mystery. 🕊



## Join us for worship!

### Sunday Service Times

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

### March 31

Spiritual and Religious

Part 4: Connect

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

### April 7

Spiritual and Religious,

Part 5: Serve

*Isaiah 58:6-9, Matthew 12:1-12*

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

### April 14 – Palm Sunday

Spiritual and Religious

Part 6: Challenge

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

## 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](http://www.cccckc.org/leadership-nominations). Deadline is Mar. 31.

## Do You Follow Us?





## *Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities*

### **Pathways to Learning**

Praying the Lord's Prayer Again for the First Time  
**Led by Dr. Mike Graves. Mar. 31, Apr. 7** – For nearly two millennia, Christians have been praying the model prayer of Jesus, especially in worship each Sunday. But familiarity can breed contempt, or at least complacency. In these interactive sessions, we will take a closer look at this beloved prayer, which turns out to be full of surprises. [Note: This is a condensed version of a class Dr. Graves taught on Monday nights last fall.]

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.

### **Faithpub**

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, this popular men's group meets for beer and conversation on a variety of spiritual topics, with a guest speaker each session. Gatherings are at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd., 7:00-8:00 p.m. Thurs., April 11: Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth at Country Club Christian Church.



### **Music Series**

**Kansas City Guitar Society Casual Concerts** – Sunday afternoons, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Combs Chapel. Free and open to the public.

April 14, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Daniel Krieg

### **Faithbistro**

For women of all ages, with guest speakers on spirituality and real-life issues. Connect with other women looking for conversations that matter. Speaker begins at 7:00 p.m., come early for dinner. Blue Moose in Prairie Village.

Apr. 25 – Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Minister at Country Club Christian Church

### **Green Team Gardening**

The Green Team gather to prepare the church grounds for spring on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. through October. Both will meet in the Chapel Lot. If you enjoy gardening you're invited to join this team. For more information contact Mary McClure at [marymcclure@me.com](mailto:marymcclure@me.com).

### **Faith and Grief Lunch: A Good Death**

Join us Tues., Apr. 2, noon- 1:00 p.m., as Hilary Lohrman shares her experiences of good deaths and challenging situations and thinking about preparing for our own death. Lohrman is a retired RN and an affiliate of Mount Saint Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. Table conversation will open up to grief of all kinds. Complimentary lunch is provided. Hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road. More information at [www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC](http://www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC).

### **Metro Mission**

#### **Virginia Reed Food Drive**

The focus for March is crackers, cereal and jelly. Bring grocery items to church on Sun., Mar. 17, or donate by marking monetary gifts "Food Drive" and those will be received through our offering and in the parlor.



#### **April Collection Connection**

Are you thinking about spring cleaning? Gently used or new skillets/pots and pans are being requested for our team working to set up homes and apartments for incoming refugee families through Della Lamb Community Services. These families arrive with only the clothes on their backs, and they could really use your help. Please place donations in the basket in the Parlor or in Corey Meyer's office.

#### **Micah Ministry**

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., April 8. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool to Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Return to church at 7:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Jackie Cunningham at 816-246-6202.

### **Memorial Easter Lily Sale**

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily to be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Deadline for orders is Apr. 7. Order forms in the parlor today. Return the form with payment of \$25 to Carla Rauth. Questions? Contact Carla at 816-381-9241 or [carlar@cccckc.org](mailto:carlar@cccckc.org).



## *a message from staff*

### No Way!

Lisa McCleish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



**T**he cold and snowy winter frequently prevented the children from playing outside the past few months. We are blessed to have large spaces like the Social Hall and the Pine Room where we can run around and use up some of that endless energy that children have, but the teachers still had to get creative with classroom activities.

Since taking off their shoes and socks is a favorite toddler activity, the teachers in room 17 filled six shallow pans with a variety of wet and dry materials (oatmeal, rice, bubble wrap, shaving cream and warm water) for the children to walk through.

As expected, the children each reacted differently. Some of the children couldn't wait to step into the pans, and went right back to the beginning when they finished. A few of the children needed an adult hand to hold, but Charlie and Gigi wanted no part of the activity. Charlie clung to his teacher and wouldn't let go, while Gigi repeated, "No way Miss 'Lizabeth, no way!"

After two days of coaxing and encouragement from her mom, Gigi was no closer to participating. On day three, Miss Elizabeth had everyone experiment with the materials using their hands first. Then the whole class, teachers and children, took off their shoes and socks before walking through the tubs. The room was filled with giggles and excited screams.

One of the teachers reminds us at every staff meeting that we learn something new from the children every day so the lesson for today, "When you are apprehensive about trying something new, start with a finger before you jump in with both feet." 🍷



## Our Church Family

### *In Sympathy*

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

**Roger James**

### *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.

**Dr. Howard R. Woosley, D.D.S.**

Wanda Doerr

Tom and Helen Gray

Leta Mae Hodkins

Cindy and Randy Irey

Paul and Mary Ella Klingsporn

Stephen and Susan Potter

Hank and Joan Riffe

Judy and Mike Schaefer

Ann Smith

John and Martha Jane Stewart

Marilyn Waller

Gay Woosley

Anniversary Class

**Esther "Chris" Rice**

Sheldon and Cleone Crossette

Duane and Linda Johnson

Robert and Elizabeth Randall

Jim and Joan Wells

**Jim Love**

John and Martha Jane Stewart

**Rev. Tom Lieurance**

Bill and Brucie Hopkins

**Robert Legg**

Jane Jacobs

**Roger James**

Jane and John Marty

John and Martha Jane Stewart

**Vernon Johnson**

James and Carolyn Suggs

## Good Friday Service Project

Join us for a Good Friday service opportunity for Youth and Club Kids at the Urban Farming Guys from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m. on Fri., Apr. 19. The Urban Farming Guys are a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged communities rebuild from within by building local economy, capacity, and resiliency. We will support UFG through gardening and other service projects. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, clothes that can get dirty, and an eager spirit! We will meet in the parking lot after the Good Friday worship service at noon and return by 4:00 pm. RSVP to Aprilb@cccckc.org.

## Tall Oaks Summer Camps

Our denomination is fortunate to have several wonderful summer camp programs for youth and children in the Kansas City region. Throughout the summer, children grades K-12 have the chance to gather together with people from across the Kansas City area for a variety of camps, including day, overnight, and equestrian camps. Find more information and register at [www.talloaks.org/copy-of-descriptions-registration](http://www.talloaks.org/copy-of-descriptions-registration).

## Youth Ministries

### Sunday Evening Youth Group

#### 6th - 12th graders

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

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday Supper (\$3 suggested donation)

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

### Senior Recognition and Lunch

Sun., May 5. Save the date, more details to come.

Contact Tyler if you are or have a senior and have not received a notification.

### 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

### Collection Connection

We need 2,000 filled plastic Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Apr. 7. Pick up eggs in the parlor and return them filled with small stickers, toys, coins or nut-free pre-packaged candy.

### Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt

All are invited to join us as we welcome spring with the annual Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 7 at noon. Much fun for all – a petting zoo, outdoor activities, and egg hunt. The Easter bunny will be there to welcome all! Lunch will be served! Invite your friends and neighbors and come ready to celebrate spring!

### Parent Playdate

Drop in the library on Sun., May 5 at 10:00 a.m. for a time to connect with other parents with infants and toddlers (24 months and younger.) Come enjoy light refreshments as you get to meet others. Babies bring your parents to play!

### Mom's Meet Up

Join other parents of young children for a presentation on mindful parenting, led by Miriam Zavagnin. Fri., May 10, Room 206. Contact Lindsay Howes, [lindsayh@cccckc.org](mailto:lindsayh@cccckc.org), for childcare.

### Club Kids for 3rd – 5th Graders

Join us Sunday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for a time of games, community building, service and spiritual growth. Dinner provided and a \$3 donation is suggested.





## Children's Musical



Our annual Children's Musical, Big Shot: Facing Down Our Giants, Looking Up To God, was Sun., Mar. 24. Children's Choir, directed by Alex and Sara Goering, spent weeks preparing props and rehearsing for the event.



## Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Our team of 12 returned from a week-long mission trip to Puerto Rico on Sun., Mar. 24. We had an impactful week of working alongside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico, a group of community churches dedicated to helping neighbors rebuild after Hurricane Maria. The recovery of Puerto Rico has and will be a long, slow process for many. Homes are in desperate need of repair, access to electricity and water is a great need, and despite everything the spirit and hope of the people are alive and well. Look for our blog post and more pictures on the church website.



## Quarterly Financial Report

	Prior Year Actuals Jul 17 - Dec 17	Current Year Actuals Jul 17 - Dec 18	Budget Jul 17 - Dec 18	Year to Date Budget Variance
<b>Income</b>				
Contributions	842,614.31	853,476.19	864,131.00	(10,654.81)
Building and Event Fees	367,972.42	445,387.50	485,020.74	(39,633.24)
Endowment (Designated and Non-Designated)	136,038.21	180,945.66	191,451.48	(10,505.82)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,346,624.94</b>	<b>1,479,809.35</b>	<b>1,540,603.22</b>	<b>(60,793.87)</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Total Personnel Expense	543,265.71	616,074.74	610,717.50	5,357.24
Total Programs, Facility, Admin. Expense	701,113.54	767,554.61	717,055.20	50,499.41
Total Mission and Outreach Expense	92,437.41	108,969.63	165,349.98	(56,380.35)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,336,816.66</b>	<b>1,492,598.98</b>	<b>1,493,122.68</b>	<b>(523.70)</b>

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## Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday  
Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves  
Scholar in Residence

Rev. Tyler Heston  
Minister to Youth

Rev. Corey Meyer  
Director of Mission Partnerships

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn  
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

Anne Haraughty  
Ministries Coordinator

Barbara George  
Director of Membership Development

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

Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

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

Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

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## SAVE THE DATES



### Spring Fling

Sun., Apr. 7, noon- 2:00 p.m. Lunch, Activities and Egg Hunt on the Lawn

### Palm Sunday Worship

April 14, join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants.

### Maundy Thursday

April 18, 7:00 p.m. – In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion. Rev. Tyler Heston preaching.

### Good Friday

April 19, 12:15 p.m. (prelude at noon)

### Easter

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

### Backyard Bash

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Join us this summer for Backyard Bash, several Wednesday evenings of food, fellowship and fun, starting Wed. June 5.

### Max Dewese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, at noon.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

