



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Joy and Pain



Rev. Carla Aday

I try to write this column about one theme. But today I cannot decide. Part of me wants to describe the overwhelming joy unfolding. I could

recount the electric energy of 300 folks at the Spring Fling last Sunday, the beaming smiles of toddlers hunting Easter eggs and petting the animals and getting photos with the Easter bunny on a picture perfect Spring Day. Or I might brag on the talented and dedicated church leaders and staff faithfully preparing for the Easter crowds. Or the contagious generosity of members who are tutoring kids at Hartman, setting up homes for Refugees from Congo and rebuilding homes in Puerto Rico. Even the repaved Ward Parkway seems like a reason to rejoice!

But another part of me wants to call our attention to the unspeakable pain that pervades our culture at this moment. I am increasingly aware, and I think you are too, that the teenagers and young adults in our society are facing unprecedented pressures from social media, the ready availability of dangerous substances, and the demands to perform both academically and in extracurricular activities. Our young people are more connected and lonelier than ever before. Similarly, though our economy thrives,

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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.



Easter Offering 2019: Community Sustainability

This year, our Easter Offering recipients are organizations that are paving the way for a sustainable future. Bridging the Gap in Kansas City, and AMAN-ECER 2025 (The Alliance for Sustainable Resource Management) in Puerto Rico are leading efforts to bring together environment, economy and community to address how to be resilient toward natural disasters and leave a positive legacy for generations. To give to the Easter Offering, visit cccckc.org/give, or leave your check in the offering plate on Sunday.

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From the Senior Minister

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families face increasing emotional burdens. I watch families miraculously and compassionately juggle caring for an aging parent in another city while working and raising kids here. I see the toll that depression and alcoholism takes on families. I see the spiritual angst that comes with an unexpected medical diagnosis with long-term implications. Not to mention the political polarization that many families and friends experience. Sometimes, the days feel too heavy.

To write of either the joy or the despair seems incomplete, even disingenuous. Perhaps that is why Holy Week begins with the loud joyful Hosannas. And ends with the desolation of Good Friday. Because most of us live with both unspeakable joy and genuine pain. Holy week is not so much a reminder of the path that Jesus walked long ago. But even more so, a reminder that God walks alongside us now.

Grace and peace,

Carla

Second Annual Max Deweese Golf Tournament

The second annual Max Deweese Golf Tournament is on Fri., Sept. 27, at noon at St. Andrews Golf Course. This event is a great time of fun, and also raises funds for various local ministries, including veterans and the formerly incarcerated. 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.



Guest Gathering

Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you for pastry and coffee on Apr. 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Learn more about us in a casual setting as a member of our clergy guides you through our values, traditions, and beliefs. Discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups. RSVP to Barbara George, barbarag@cccckc.org or 816-381-9251.

Upcoming Sermon Series

Tune My Heart.

May 5, 12, 19. The KU Chamber Singers will sing at all three services on Sun., May 5 to launch our season of generosity. The theme Tune My Heart, a line from the hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* invites all of us to tune our hearts to God's grace.

ABC's of Faith

May 26-July 28. What do you mean when you say the word God or Salvation or Spirit? This summer we will dust off these old words and breathe new life into them. We will seek to claim words that have been used to divide and discover how they can draw us together. Once we peel back the meaning of these words, we may find new spiritual power and energy for daily living.

Backyard Bash

You're invited to fun-filled evenings for all ages with dinner and activities or classes. Kids' highlights include face painting; inflatables; special musical guests - something different every week. Adult classes vary week-to-week with topics such as real conversations; floral arranging; the gift of Sabbath; sparking joy and much more. Wednesdays in June and July, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Go to cccckc.org/backyard-bash/ for detailed information about each week.

9:01 on the Lawn

Our popular 9:01 service moves to the front lawn starting Sun., May 26. Join us in this beautiful worship space as we welcome guest musicians, share in communion, and hear a message of hope and grace. Come as you are - ride your bike, bring your dog or walk to worship. Sidewalk chalk and bubbles will be out for children to enjoy.



Do You Follow Us?





Seeing and Feeling Puerto Rico

Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships



It has been tough to answer the question, “How was Puerto Rico?!” without immediately thinking of the warm 80-degree weather every day and stunning view of mountains for miles all around us. I was amazed at the beauty of the island from the moment that we drove from San Juan to Barranquitas (even if it was at midnight). From the vibrant colorful houses on the hillside, to the rolling greens of trees newly budded. It looked like somewhere that I

would want to vacation every year, or even live there. I almost believed, for a second, that life for people who live in Puerto Rico was back to normal, that everything destroyed was rebuilt, that we could come and visit the island like the thousands of tourist who were on their way to the beachside resorts to soak up the sunshine and sip on some piña coladas.

This is the trick of the eye when it comes to rebuilding communities after natural disasters. And frankly, it’s the trick of “mission trips” to somewhere beautiful like Puerto Rico, or Ecuador. It’s easy to be enveloped by the scenery until the heart reminds you that the people whose homes were destroyed, families torn apart, and livelihoods uprooted in a matter of hours are still struggling, still desperate, still looking for signs of hope and resurrection. I think I feel it as a dissonance, a clash or tension, between the ways things appear to the eye and the reality that lies in the day-to-day trauma of experiencing something like Hurricane Maria. Alec, one of our team leaders, talked about the spirit and hope of the people of Puerto Rico for a more resilient tomorrow, and in the same conversation could recall vividly the despair and uncertainty of the hours of torrential rains.

It’s easy to imagine what we saw in the landscape of the island, but it’s more difficult to imagine what we felt driving around and working in the homes of people affected by Hurricane Maria. I caught myself thinking, “Wow! I would love to vacation here.” And “Wow, we need to keep coming back to do what we can to help repair homes.” I know, it’s both. I suspect many of you who have been on mission trips know that too. Perhaps that is something that God’s Spirit calls us to see – the beauty and the despair all in the same, all wrapped up in hope. 🕊



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

April 14 – Palm Sunday

Spiritual and Religious

Part 6: Challenge

Luke 19:28-48

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

April 21– Easter

Spiritual and Religious

Part 7: Rise

Luke 24:1-12

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

April 28

Acts 1:1-11

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Easter at The Well

Have you had the chance to explore The Well? It is a wonderful resource for gifts and seasonal items and books. Using books can be a great way to help your family explore their faith and relationship with God. We will be highlighting some of the many resources you can find in The Well. Stop in and check them out.



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

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., May 16: Dr. Milton Horne, emeritus professor of Old Testament at William Jewell College



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

May 19, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Braulio Bosi

Kansas City Guitar Society Artist Series Fri., May 3, 9:00 p.m. Beau Bledsoe. General admission: \$20; KCGS and church members: \$17; Students: \$15

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 gathers to prepare the church grounds for spring on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Both meet in the Chapel Lot. If you enjoy gardening you're invited to join this team. For more information contact Mary McClure at marymclure@me.com.

Scotland Trip in 2020

In July of next year, you are invited to travel to Scotland with Rev. Carla Aday and Dr. Mike Graves, as we explore our religious heritage and visit historic sites. This 10-day tour will include visits to museums, castles, cathedrals, and other interesting excursions. There will also be a few days of golfing for those who wish to stay on after the sightseeing. Space is limited, so it is important to get signed up as soon as possible. For more information, contact Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.

Ecuador Mission Trip

A mission team will travel to Ecuador Oct. 18-25 in partnership with FEDICE, an organization working to empower indigenous and marginalized communities. An informational meeting for those interested in going on the trip is scheduled for on Sun., May 19 at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 206.

Sewing Team Needs Sheets

The Sewing Ministry Team needs sheets of any size, color or condition for sewing projects including sheets and bed pads for cancer patients and dresses for children. Please leave sheets at reception desk on the ground floor.



Doris Soltys delivers dresses to Rev. Tyler Heston to take on the Youth mission trip to Ecuador.

Metro Mission

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., May 13. 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.



a message from staff

Church Still Happens

Paul Cutelli, Director of Technology



After about 15 years of weddings, funerals, Sunday services, and special events, something broke. Since I have been on staff, nothing quite like this had happened before. Every other time something was amiss with the sound system, we could tell what the problem was, but this time it was very different. The speaker, suspended above the chancel had a bad “something.” We did not know what it was, but we knew it needed repair... all before Palm Sunday and Easter.

Similar to exploratory surgery, a technician had to take apart the front of the speaker box and diagnose the problem without knowing if the repair would take such a long time that our Easter services would have to be without the full sound spectrum. To put it mildly, I was stressing out.

After a flurry of emails, estimates, and logistical planning, everything was agreed upon and the work began; the fear of the unknown was in the forefront of my mind the whole time. I got a little reprieve when we uncovered that the problem was repairable, but there was a catch – we could not have it fixed in time for Sunday’s services on Mar. 31. This one Sunday, the whole front of the Sanctuary would not sound good, and there was little to do about it.

As I contemplated the situation, fretting about how I might be able to make it better, I had to resign myself to the fact that nothing really could be done. The sanctuary would be struggling with the spoken word right in the middle of Lent! Church would be ruined, and it was my department’s fault. After all, the best sound man is the one that no one notices as the saying goes, and everyone was going to notice the problems that Sunday.

As I stumbled down this negative line of thought, I was suddenly reminded of something that was said to me years ago: “No matter how hard we try, ‘church’ still happens.” Church in all its fantastic, phenomenal glory is above all the mess we humans inflict upon it. Heads will be bowed, hymns will be sung, a word will be shared, and the Spirit will be present. I found some much needed strength and assurance in that realization and I am pleased to report that “church” did happen Mar. 31... and it was wonderful!

Oh, and that speaker? It is fixed too. 🍷



Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

Jeremy Mosley

In Honor Of

Jane Marty

The Koinonia Class, Knitting Group

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.

Roger James

Max Deweese

Charles and Marilyn Dreas

Tana Field

Dale and Linda Flanokin

Randy and Cindy Irey

Phillip Klever

The Merriman Foundation

Wayne and Kristin Mertel

Ruth Rader

Kathleen and Daniel Terrill

James and Winona Townsend

Cheryl Townsend

Rev. Tom Lieurance

Dr. Milburn and Evalyn Hobson

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

Dr. Milburn and Evalyn Hobson

Lanny and Ann Patten

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 is 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 April at 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.

Youth Ministries

Youth Car Wash

Support Youth Missions and get your car washed at the same time! Sat., Apr. 27, 8:30 a.m.-noon, east parking lot.



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 Socials

Join us for a variety of fun activities this summer. A full calendar is available online at cccckc.org/summer-calendar/.

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).

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)

Children and Families

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, for childcare.



Parents' Night Out

Fri., May 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Families with children 3rd grade and younger are invited to drop the kids at church for an evening of fun. Children will be supervised by youth and adult leaders. Children 2 and under will be with church childcare staff. \$10 per child. Serves as a fund-raiser for youth service-learning trips. RSVP to April aprilb@cccckc.org.

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.



Spring Fling



Hundreds of people came out to participate in the Spring Fling on Apr. 7. It was a gorgeous day and everyone had a lot of fun.

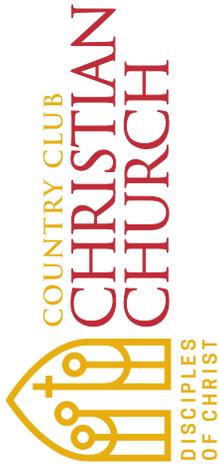


Grace at Work

50 people gathered for Grace at Work and a successful morning of "spring cleaning." We spent time removing old furniture from the attic, recycling tables and chairs, giving the Sanctuary a polishing, organizing the library for books to be enjoyed, and packing lunches for the hungry and working people that go to Cross-Lines Community Outreach. Jeff Algie took a team to spread mulch at Grace United Community Ministries, so that children and families could enjoy the fruits of a community garden and playground space. Even though snow was falling as we came together in the morning, by the afternoon you could see, smell, and feel the coming of Spring all around!



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SAVE THE DATES



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.

Maunder 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

8:00 a.m. Service – Combs Chapel, featuring soloist Alex Goering.

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services – Sanctuary featuring the Kansas City Brass, Chancel Choir, and soloist Alex Goering.

Complimentary Hot Easter Breakfast

8:00-9:15 a.m., Social Hall.

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!

