



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister At the Arrival of Gratitude



Rev. Carla Aday

*"At arrival of gratitude, theology slid away like a heavy coat."*

—Leif Enger,  
Virgil Wander

I love three things about this quote. First, I love that gratitude *arrives*. It's hard to force gratitude. You can practice politeness and teach folks to say "thank you" but the deep awareness that life is a gift more often than not, arrives out of some experience. When you have struggled with infertility and finally you hold a child in your arms and name him, gratitude arrives. When the doctor says after the tragic accident "she's going to be ok," gratitude arrives. When the hydrangeas blossom on a cool June evening, gratitude arrives, unbidden.

I love thinking of theology as a heavy coat. Thinking about God feels heavy sometimes. And yet a coat is necessary to keep us warm. Theology is not just for preachers or academics. Everyone wonders, "is there a God and if so, what is God like?" You don't even have to be religious to ponder why we are here on this earth and how we are to find meaning and purpose in our days. When we visit Mom after a stroke and she can no longer speak, we ask "Where is God?" When we read about those who are persecuted because of sexual orientation or skin color, religion or nationality, we question if God's love is really real.

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### Sunday, June 9

This week we are celebrating service and membership.

- Celebration of Service – If you have served in any capacity during 2018-2019 year, whether at church or elsewhere in the community, we celebrate and thank you!
- Celebration of Membership – New members will be welcomed during 11:00 a.m. service.
- Stay for complimentary ice cream sundaes on the Front Lawn, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Backyard Bash

Wednesdays in June and July, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to fun-filled evenings for all ages with dinner and activities or classes.

Highlights for Wed., June 12 include:

- Food Truck Night (\$5/person \$20 max/family)
- *Labrynth Walk* with Lisa Engelken
- Real Conversations with Teresa Williams
- Yard games for children and youth



Different activities and classes each week. Go to [cccckc.org/backyard-bash/](http://cccckc.org/backyard-bash/) for detailed information. Dinner served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. See you in the backyard!

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## From the Senior Minister

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And I love the image “slid away,” because it reminds me that this life of faith is not only our doing, our thinking, our serving but something way beyond us, something deep within us. A few weeks ago, the KU choir sang at all three services and three times, my heart was lifted to a place I hadn’t thought possible as I arrived at church that morning. Tonight as I write, I hear the chancel choir rehearsing down the hall and my spirits are lifted. As we wrap up a year here at the church, I look back with deep gratitude for all who have served in myriad ways so that God’s love might be made real in our community. Our staff team amazes me every single day with their dedicated service and generous wisdom. My family, in all its uniqueness, brings me deep and abiding joy and makes me laugh. In rare moments, the presence of God overtakes us.

Grace and peace,

*Carla*

## Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to all who have participated in the Tune My Heart Stewardship Campaign by turning in a commitment card. If you have not already turned in your card, it is not too late to do so. You may drop it in the offering tray on Sunday morning, visit [www.cccckc.org/give](http://www.cccckc.org/give) to make your pledge securely online, or email your pledge to Rachel Clement, Director of Finance, at [rachelc@cccckc.org](mailto:rachelc@cccckc.org).

## Financial Commitment

As the church’s fiscal year nears its end on June 30, please review your financial commitment to the church for the 2018-2019 year and make every effort to ensure your giving is up to date. Fulfilling the financial commitment you have made to the church ensures that we can end the year in good standing as we move into the budget planning for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Thank you for your generosity to Country Club Christian Church. If you have any questions about your commitment, please contact Rachel Clement.

## Pick-Up Choir Next Sunday

Next Sunday, June 16, a Pick-Up Choir will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room to sing “Tree of Life” at 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. All interested parties are strongly encouraged! Questions regarding Pick-Up Choir? Contact Dina Pannabecker Evans at [dinae@cccckc.org](mailto:dinae@cccckc.org).



The Chapel Choir of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma gave an inspiring and beautiful concert, last week. We wish them all the best on their “True Blue” Summer Tour.

## Security Improvements

In response to the national concerns about security at schools, work places and houses of worship, the church board requested a security review of our campus last fall. After consulting with a variety of security experts, the church decided to implement several security improvements to ensure the safety of all those who use our building on a daily basis. Through our Preschool and Parents Day Out week-day programs, Alcoholics Anonymous, worship, and the daily work of our staff and lay leaders, hundreds of individuals enjoy the sanctity and hospitality of our building each week, and out of an abundance of caution we have taken a proactive approach to their security. On Sundays you may occasionally see and interact with Officer DeAndre Allen from the Kansas City Missouri Police Department who works with our staff and Sunday security team from J&J Security to keep Sunday mornings as safe as possible. Please feel free to greet Officer Allen and the security team when you see them. Additionally, staff and teams of greeters, elders and deacons have been briefed and trained on security procedures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Wendlebo, Executive Director of Operations at [chrisw@cccckc.org](mailto:chrisw@cccckc.org).



## reflections

### Doors for Transformation

Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth



Last week, thousands gathered both in person and online for the funeral of Christian author and speaker Rachel Held Evans, who died unexpectedly at the age of 37. Evans spent most of her life in Tennessee, where she was raised as a conservative Evangelical. In her twenties, she began to question things personally and publicly in blogs, books, and speaking engagements, and eventually became a key voice in the movement of many out of Evangelicalism into an inclusive, progressive Christianity. She published books like her autobiography *Evolving in Monkey Town: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask the Questions* (one of the most influential books I read as I was leaving Evangelicalism myself) and *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*. One of the most powerful elements in Rachel Held Evans' legacy is the door she open for others to be transformed because of her own story. In *Evolving in Monkey Town* (re-published later as *Faith Unraveled*), she says,

*"I used to be a fundamentalist. Not the Teletubby-hating, apocalypse-ready, Jerry Falwell type of fundamentalist, but the kind who thinks that God is pretty much figured out already. I was a fundamentalist because my security and self-worth and sense of purpose in life were all wrapped up in getting God right... I was a fundamentalist not because of the beliefs I held but because of how I held them: with a death grip. It would take God himself to finally pry some of them out of my hands."*

Rachel Held Evans' story, a story about moving "from certainty, through doubt, to faith," proved that God can pry such beliefs out of one's hand. German philosopher Herbert Vighnāntaka Günther says that "Dogmatism is the tacit admission that one is intellectually and spiritually dead, because one has come to the end of one's questioning, and because any further questioning is discouraged and disallowed." The movement from certainty, through doubt, to faith is a resurrection—it's a movement from the death of dogmatism into the life of a faith that embraces questions. It's a resurrection from the dead, already-figured-out God to the living, moving, ever-mysterious God.

My own thoughts about Rachel Held Evans' influence and my thoughts about this transformation and resurrection from dogmatism feel particularly important this week as I prepare to leave with our high school mission trip to Otavalo, Ecuador. This mission trip will be more than an opportunity to travel and do good for other people; the true power of mission trips is their power to transform. We will arrive in Ecuador with certain understandings of how the world works, and many of these will be challenged; we will come home with a fresh and wider understanding of who God is in our world. Because of our service, learning, and relationship-building, we will see new ways that God is alive in the world.

Will you pray for us that we may be transformed while we travel? Will you pray that God might pry out of us some ways that we see the world? Will you pray that God gives us new ways of being open to faith in a big God in a big world? As we travel and are transformed, we will return to share the transformation with others—with you in our church to many other family and friends in our schools and in our city. As we walk through the door of transformation, we will leave it open and invite others and you to come along. 🍷



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

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

#### June 9

ABC's of Faith, Part 3: Spirit  
Acts 2:1-4

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### June 16

ABC's of Faith, Part 4: Jesus  
John 1:1-18

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### June 23

ABC's of Faith, Part 5: Faith  
Romans 1:16-17

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

### Summer Sermon Series

#### ABCs of Faith

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.

### Do You Follow Us?





## *Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities*

### **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](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org).

### **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](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org).

## **Metro Mission**

### **Collection Connection**

We are collecting school supplies for Grace United Community Ministries (GUCM), including pencils, paper (spiral notebooks appreciated), and simple calculators (such as those available at Dollar Stores). GUCM works with families and individuals in Northeast Kansas City, empowering them to break the cycle of poverty. Programs include after school tutoring and summer camps. Please leave items in the Parlor during the month of June.

### **Micah Ministry**

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., June 10. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Jackie Cunningham at 816-246-6202.

### **Virginia Reed Food Drive**

Most Kansas City-area students are now on summer break. However, hunger doesn't take a vacation and in fact, food insecurity increases during summer months, when low-income students are no longer receiving free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch at school. The Food Drive will be collecting food items like peanut butter, cereal, orange juice, canned fruit, and mac and cheese during the summer months. Drop donations anytime in baskets located at the entry doors or at the table in the parlor every third Sunday.

## **Summer Connections for Young Adults**

Don't miss these exciting ways to connect with other 18-22 year olds this summer! Catch up with old youth group friends, make new friends with other young folks your age, and see all of the exciting things people in our community are up to across the country. To stay tuned with text reminders, visit <https://www.remind.com/join/ccccya>.

### **Summer Brunch**

Every other Sunday in June and July, people aged 18-24 are invited to worship together in the 11:00 a.m. service before going to brunch at a local KC eatery. Restaurants will be announced day-of; meet in the Parlor after worship to find out where and carpool or stay tuned via our text reminders. Dates: June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28

### **Read Scripture in the 9:01**

College-aged adults are invited to read the Scripture in our 9:01 on the Lawn service this summer. If you're interested, contact Rev. Tyler Heston at [tylerh@cccckc.org](mailto:tylerh@cccckc.org).

### **Top Golf on Saturday, June 15**

Join us from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sat., June 15, for a night at the Top Golf (10611 Nall Ave, Overland Park, KS 66207). Bring \$20/person (scholarships available) and any money for food.

### **Picnic on Sunday, July 14**

Mark your calendars for 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sun., July 14, for a picnic and cookout in the KC area. We'll eat, swim, and enjoy a sunny afternoon/evening together.



Country Club Christian Church members served a Taco Tuesday meal to more than 150 hungry individuals at Cross-Lines Community Outreach on Tues., June 4. Pictured, left-right, Tom Thornton, Shelly O'Neill, a Cross-Lines employee, Max Deweese (dishwasher for 28 years), and Steve and Joyce Statler.



## *a message from staff*

### Membership Development... and Engagement

By Barbara George, Director of Membership Development



“Engagement” is an operative word and a goal of Membership Development. It is to engage guests and members more fully into the life of Country Club Christian Church through small groups, study, service, and of course, worship. It is to provide opportunities to connect one with another, to grow spiritually, to learn and to serve.

My path began many years ago. I just walked in the door of this magnificent structure one Sunday not knowing a soul. For months I sat in the same spot on the pulpit side and then escaped through the South door as fast as I could. One Sunday I realized that if I was to continue attending, then it was time to “do something” and participate in some way; to give back for all that I was receiving, but what to do or how to do it?

Since that time, the New Member Host program has been developed to answer these questions for new members and guests. A Host is an individual, couple or family that can help an individual(s) discover opportunities to participate, connect, and serve as their experiences and interests dictate. Hosts keep new members and guests informed of events, small groups, and help make introductions to others in the congregation. I still remember the very first person I met at church, the first person who called me by name, and the person who took me to a Sunday school class. They each had such an impact on me and on my engagement at Country Club Christian.

Do you remember your “firsts”? Every member can provide that impact and positive direction for anyone who is looking to engage; looking to make that same connection.

Please consider the importance of being a New Member Host when called. 🍷

### Our Church Family

#### *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.

#### **Betty Foster**

Bonnie and Doug Dee  
Harold Goss  
Beth Ingram  
Meredith Lee

#### **Roger James**

Rob and Ann Ramseyer

#### **Esther Chris Rice**

Clay Hedrick and Janie Grant

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

Jonna and Dale Hunter

#### *In Honor of*

#### **Charles William Leonard**

John and Gaye Leonard

#### **Nancy Lear**

Megan and Jeffrey Mudrick, *Nicaragua Mission Trip*



Rev. Corey Meyer leading the Moment for Children outdoors at 9:01 on the Lawn.

## Youth Ministries

### Summer Youth Calendar

It's going to be an exciting summer for the youth of Country Club Christian Church! Sync the official Youth calendar with your Google account using this link: [goo.gl/C3Dp7C](https://goo.gl/C3Dp7C), and sign up for text reminders at [remind.com/join/cccccyo](https://remind.com/join/cccccyo).

### Youth Scavenger Hunt and Dinner

Tues., June 18. Youth who have completed grades 6-12 will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. for a fun scavenger hunt around town. We'll adventure Kansas City together via scavenger hunt, stopping for a few fun sights together, before rendezvousing for dinner downtown. We'll back at the church by 9:00 p.m. Please bring \$15 for food and activities. Scholarships available.

### Service Project: Urban Farming Guys

Youth who have completed grades 6-12 will serve at Urban Farming Guys on Thurs., June 27. We will help with gardening and other projects. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, and clothes that can get dirty.! Our next project will be. We will meet in the parking lot at 12:30 p.m. and return by 4:30 p.m.. RSVP to April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).



Lauren and Breck McGuire serving at the Urban Farming Guys on May 30.

### Worlds of Fun

Let's spend Mon., July 15 in the summer sun at Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun! We'll meet at the church at 10:30 a.m., carpool to Worlds of Fun, and will return by 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40, includes ticket and a picnic meal and snacks. Bring additional spending money for souvenirs and snacks in the park. Scholarships available. Incoming sixth graders welcome.

## Children and Families



### Summer Sunday School

#### Celebrating and Caring for Creation

During June and July, children having completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join in a special experience during the Sunday School hour 9:55 - 10:50 am. We will begin in the Youth Center with our youth for a combined opening led by Sara and Alex; a focus reading or video then participate in age appropriate activities.

For June we will *celebrate* God's good creation – ending with a **live animal visit** from Lakeside Nature Center.

In July we will explore *caring* for creation including a special performance by **Eco Elvis**.

### Backyard Bash

You're invited to fun-filled evenings for all ages with dinner and activities or classes, on Wednesdays in June and July, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Childcare available.

June 12 - Yard Games

June 19 - Face painting with Sister Act Face painting

### Parent Night Out

Fri., June 21, 6:00-8:30 pm. Youth will provide a Parents' Night Out for children 3rd grade and under. Snacks provided, please serve your child dinner at home. Children 2 and under will be with childcare staff; 3 and older will be with youth and adult leaders. Cost is \$10 per child with a \$30 max per family. Proceeds support children and youth service-learning experiences. RSVP to April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).





## High School Mission Trip

Fifteen high schoolers and three adult sponsors departed for Otavolo, Ecuador on Thurs., June 6 for a service/learning trip. The team is working with FED-ICE, a long-time partner of our denomination which has worked for decades to empower indigenous and marginalized communities in the Ecuadorian Andes and to break the cyclical chains of poverty, discrimination and injustice. Our team will undertake projects at the New Seed Children's Center, along with getting to know people in the community, building relationships and learning what it's like to live in another part of the globe. You can follow along on their journey at [cccckc.org/high-school-mission-trip/](http://cccckc.org/high-school-mission-trip/).



## Trip to the Holy Land

On May 20, 35 members and friends of the church departed Kansas City on a nine day pilgrimage through Israel, led by Rev. Carla Aday, Dr. Mike Graves and Dr. David May. The trip began in Galilee, went down the Jordan valley, and culminated with some of the most cherished sites in and around Jerusalem.



Israel trip leaders Dr. Mike Graves, Rev. Carla Aday and Dr. David May.



Exploring Jerusalem



Dr. Mike Graves teaching at the Beatitudes site.

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Return Service Requested

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Scholar in Residence

Rev. Tyler Heston  
Minister to Youth

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## SAVE THE DATES



### 9:01 on the Lawn

Our popular 9:01 service moves to the front lawn through Aug. 11.

### Backyard Bash

Join us this summer for Backyard Bash, several Wednesday evenings of food, fellowship and fun, goes through July. 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### Celebration Sunday

We will celebrate Service and Membership on June 9 at all three services. Enjoy Complimentary ice cream sundaes on the Front Lawn, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Micah Ministry

Serve dinner from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., June 10. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool.

### Summer Brunch for Young Adults

Sun., June 16, noon, meet in the Parlor.

### Youth Group Scavenger Hunt

Tues., June 18, 4 p.m.

### Youth Group Goes to Worlds of Fun

Mon., July 15, 10:30 a.m.

### Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, at noon.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

