



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister The Promise of God



Rev. Carla Aday

**T**here is a story about Leonardo da Vinci... Early in his career he was painting a picture of Christ and found a beautiful young male to model for his portrait of Jesus. Many

years later, Leonardo was painting a picture that included Judas. He walked through the streets of Florence looking for the perfect person to play the great betrayer. Finally he found someone dark-looking enough, evil seeming enough to do the job. He went up to the man to approach him to do the modeling. The man looked at him and said, "you don't remember me, but I know you. Years ago, I was the model for your picture of Jesus."

— Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of a Course in Miracles*

One of the things I relish about participating in a faith community is the honest look it gives us at ourselves. On too many days, we wallow in self-loathing – I can't do anything right. And on too many days we blame others and take a self-righteous stance – what are they thinking?! But the reality is that none of us is all good or all bad. All of us have a bit of Jesus and a bit of Judas within us. We are filled with God's divine love and compassion. And we are fragile broken people who mess up.

There is a fancy word for worship

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## Backpack Blessing

Aug. 18, 9:01 and 11:00 a.m.

Save the date for Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year. Offered during the 9:01 and 11:00 a.m. services. Children will also be promoted to their next grade/age level in Sunday School.



## Festival Sunday Sept. 8

Celebrate the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults. 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 9:01 service. Guest musicians at all three services. Picnic lunch from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## Last Outdoor Worship is Aug. 11

Sun., Aug. 11 is your last opportunity to worship with us outside on the lawn at 9:01 a.m. Phil Love will preach on this day at the 9:01 service. Starting Aug. 18 the 9:01 service moves back into the Sanctuary as we celebrate Backpack Blessing Sunday.

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## From the Senior Minister

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called “liturgy.” It means the work of the people. Sunday worship is not just a time to say “yea God” but a time to do our work as humans. For me, one of the most precious moments is the time of prayer, be it during communion, or the pastoral prayer, or the Lord’s Prayer where I name my Judas side, “forgive us our debts...” “I like getting that off my chest. I like confessing how I have failed to love, betrayed God’s best intentions for my life, hurt those who deserved grace and kindness.

And then for me, there is something that happens when we sing. Sometimes in an anthem, but more often in a hymn, when together we raise our voices, something washes over me, and I glimpse the possibility that we can be the face of Christ in the marketplace. And I see in your faces and hear in your resounding chords, the promise of God, revealed in the here and now.

Thank you.

*Carla*

## Personnel Update

### Interim Co-Director of Music



We are please to announce that effective Aug. 1, Sara Goering will serve as our Interim Co-Director of Music along with Dr. Paul Tucker. Sara has been serving with Alex Goering as our Children and Youth Choir Director and will continue in that role. Sara will oversee the administration and planning of the music program and is excited to partner with our current music staff: Dr. Tucker; Andrew Morris, Assistant Organist; and Tepring Crocker, Orffestra Director.

## State of the Church Dinner

Save the date for the annual State of the Church dinner on Tues., Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Child care available with RSVP to April Booth at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org). Rev. Carla Aday will give a vision update and present the 2018-2019 annual report.

## Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2019-2020 stewardship campaign. As of July 8, we have received 239 pledge cards, including 100 increased pledges and 15 new first-time pledges. That means over 50 percent of givers either increased their pledge or are new givers this year. To date we have received pledges totaling \$1,007,212.00 in giving estimates for the fiscal year 2019-2020. If you have not already turned in your pledge card, it is not too late to do so. You may make your make your pledge securely online, email your pledge to Rachel Clement, Director of Finance at [rachelc@cccckc.org](mailto:rachelc@cccckc.org), or pick up a pledge card on Sunday morning and drop it in the offering tray or the church office.



On July 21, we were honored to welcome Mayor-Elect Quinton Lucas to worship.

## Small Groups Forming

### Neighborhood Communion

Breaking bread together was one of the hallmarks of the early followers of Jesus. It’s in this spirit that you are invited to participate in small group gatherings in your neighborhood for a similar experience of fellowship and guided discussion developed by Dr. Mike Graves. Each group will meet three times October through November. Sign ups begin Aug. 25, in the Parlor. For information, contact Barbara George at 816-381-9251.

## Infant Dedications



Alice and Claire Taylor, daughters of Michael Taylor and Ingrid Larson, were dedicated on July 28.



## reflections

### Breaking Bread

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



**M**y eldest son has been an intern this summer with a non-profit in northeast KC. Each day after several hours of work, the interns gather with the staff and any other volunteers for lunch. They come together after their morning work, sharing conversation and food. The meal is usually something new and unusual – one time they had venison someone had given them, another time they have used

produce they harvested to create vegetarian dishes, and on another occasion food from a local restaurant was shared. In the midst of the laughter and chatter; the chewing and tasting – there is the age old act of communing while breaking bread. His sharing highlights from these daily meals struck a chord with me as I have spent time this summer with other church staff planning for our weekly Backyard Bash events.

These Wednesday evening church gatherings have provided opportunities for learning, for eating, for playing and laughing – and most importantly for connecting. From grilled chicken to cool watermelon, plates are filled by children too young to hold their own to seniors requiring assistance to the table – all gathering to break bread and live fully in the fellowship of our church. We may come for the meal and a class but we leave filled with love and care from being in the presence of other children of God.

In this fast paced daily life so many of us find ourselves – the chance to linger over a meal sharing in conversation can be a special treat – both for body and soul. In many ways being at the table is foundational to who we are as Christians. Each Sunday we gather at a table open to all, we commune, sharing of the bread and juice and we affirm our need for connection with God through one another. May we all take time to see the sharing of a meal in our daily life as a sign of God's goodness and presence in all that we do. 🍷



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

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

#### August 4

Love's Anguish

*Hosea 11:1-11*

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### August 11

*Luke 12:32-40*

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### August 18 - Backpack Blessing

Three Conversations with a Rabbi

*Genesis 9:8-17*

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

### Do You Follow Us?





## *Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities*

### **Faith and Grief Lunch**

Tues., Aug. 6, Noon-1:00 p.m. Join us as Cathy Dykman-Acinger shares, "My life had been remarkably happy and fairly predictable. But then at the age of 52, my husband died after a brief but virulent illness. As a person of faith, I had been steeped in the 'we will not fear' hymns and scripture, and yet, I was terrified and viewed all those words as just emptiness and pie-in-the-sky adages. Going on after loss is so hard, and yet God's goodness and love shines through." Everyone welcome, free will offering. Hosted by our partners at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Info (816) 381-9249 or [care@cccckc.org](mailto:care@cccckc.org).

### **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. Come early for dinner; speaker begins at 7:00 p.m. Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7



### **Elder/Deacon Information**

Orientation for new Deacons and Elders offered by Dr. Mike Graves. in the Sanctuary on Tues. Sept.10, 6:00-6:30 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. Speaker begins at 7:00 p.m., come early for dinner. Meet at Blue Moose, 4160 W 71st St. Prairie Village, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14



### **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).

### **Upcoming Trips**

2021: Bible and Art Tour of Rome and Florence:  
May 24-June 3

2022: Pilgrimage to Israel (no dates yet, but likely late May)  
Camino Santiago Pilgrimage (no dates yet)

### **Meditation**

Meditation is offered in our George Gordon Prayer Room on Wednesdays at noon. All are welcome. Begins with a brief introduction to meditation, followed by 20 minutes of meditating and five minutes of sharing. Those who are able may choose to spend a few more minutes on reflection.

### **Metro Mission**

**Celebrating 10 Years of Hartman Partnership**  
This year marks ten years of partnering with Hartman Elementary. Country Club Christian Church supports, encourages and assists students, teachers and support staff at Hartman Elementary throughout the school year. Choose from ongoing activities such as tutoring, serving in the after-school program, or preparing BackSnacks. One-time special events also offered at different times of the year. Stop by the Parlor Aug. 18 for more information or to sign up.

### **Collection Connection**

We are currently collecting school supplies and new and gently used school uniforms for the children at Hartman Elementary. We need white or navy polo shirts, navy or khaki pants, shorts, skirts, and jumpers. Monetary donations marked "Collection Connection" also welcomed. Please leave your donations in the basket.

### **Micah Ministry**

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., Aug. 12. 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.



## *a message from staff*

### **An Introduction**

By Chris Wendelbo, Executive Director of Operations



**Y**ou may have seen me walking the halls the last few weeks. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself if we haven't already met. I'm the church's new Executive Director of Operations. I oversee the administration, facilities, technology and financial services departments, working close-

ly with the church's exceptional professional staff. Together, we handle all operational tasks necessary to meet and worship together. We oversee the care, maintenance and upgrade of the church facilities and ensure that the church operates in an effective and efficient manner, while remaining on firm financial footing. It is a great pleasure to work with such dedicated professionals and the church is fortunate they are here working on your behalf.

I have been a practicing attorney for almost 30 years. I previously worked as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, as a civilian DOD attorney for the Army, and in private practice in the Washington, DC, area and Kansas City. I have my own firm where I assist clients with general business law, environmental and risk management issues, real estate and corporate transactions, and until recently, litigation.

I am originally from Texas and Oklahoma. My brother and I are continuing our family's presence on a homestead in western Oklahoma with a farming and ranching operation. We are the fifth generation to own our farm and we are dedicated to being good stewards of the land until my nieces can take over. I hold a degree in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the George Washington University.

My wife and I met in Manhattan, KS, while I was stationed at Fort Riley and later lived in the northern Virginia / Washington, DC, area. We loved living there, but decided to return to Kansas City to be closer to our families. In our free time we like to travel and work on our home in Brookside. Our home is roughly the same age as the church, and we have enjoyed making significant upgrades to almost everything. There is still a lot of work to do! My wife has a passion for photography (especially Gretta Parker), and I am learning to fly fish.

I've enjoyed getting to know the congregation so far and look forward to meeting more of you. My office is next to the coffee station and Joe's office. If you are at the church, stop by and I will buy you a cup of coffee. ☕

## **Our Church Family**

### *In Sympathy*

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

**John R. "Bob" Marty**

### *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.

**Gwen Miller**, *for Children and Youth Ministry*

Susan Carlyon

Max Deweese

Cindy and Randy Irely

Grant and Ramona Miller

Steve and Kim Mohan

Jane Schaible

Mark and Martha Underwood

**Henry Muñoz**

Cindy and Randy Irely, *for the church library*

Pat Martin



In honor of Bill and Mary Jean Shoop's 70th Wedding Anniversary, their family provided a cookie reception after worship last week.

## Youth Ministries

### Welcome Party

Incoming 6th graders are invited to a special welcome party on Tues., Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Meet at church for dinner, a scavenger hunt, and learn what to expect in the youth ministry. RSVP to [AprilB@cccckc.org](mailto:AprilB@cccckc.org).

### Back-to-School Retreat

Grades 6 -12 are invited to join for a special back to school retreat on Sat., Aug. 10, from noon to 4:00 p.m. We'll eat lunch, play a couple big group games, and more! Cost is \$10; RSVP to [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

### Youth Missions Celebration

Our youth traveled far and wide this summer! Join us in the Social Hall, 10:00 a.m. on Sun., Aug. 11. High schoolers who went to Ecuador and middle schoolers who went to Des Moines will share stories and photos of their trip.

### Middle School Pizza Tour

Sun., Aug. 18, from noon to 3:00 p.m. We will carpool from the church to three local pizzerias. RSVP to [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org); cost is \$8/person.

### High School BBQ Tour

Sun., Aug. 25, from noon to 3:00 p.m. We will carpool from the church to three favorite BBQ restaurants. RSVP to [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org); cost is \$15/person.

### Youth and Parent Meeting

Join us in the Youth Center for a special Youth and Parent Meeting during the Sunday school hour on Sun., Aug. 25. We'll spend some time getting to know one another and looking at the activities and programming in the upcoming year for the youth ministry.



Rev. Heston, Rev. Stark-Corn and several of our youth served at the Urban Farming Guys in the North East.

## Children and Families



Families served at Scraps KC in July. We learned about their mission and helped sort and organize donations.

### Parents' Night Out

Fri., Aug. 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Youth will provide a Parents' Night Out for children 3rd grade and under. Snacks provided, please serve your child dinner. 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. RSVP to April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

### MOPS Registration

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth - K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. For more information or to register email [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

### Third Grade Bibles

Our church has a tradition of presenting incoming third graders with a gift of a Bible. We will make this presentation on Festival Sunday, Sept. 8 during the 9:01 a.m. worship service. Questions? Email [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).



Eco-Elvis visited as part of our Celebrating and Caring for Creation Sunday School Series.





## Backyard Bash



Yard games, water blobs, and exploding paint were just some of the way families enjoyed summer nights at our Backyard Bash. Others preferred to attend classes and presentations. Last week, our Sewing and Knitting Ministries demonstrated how to make bed pads for cancer patients and pocket prayers.

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## Program Staff

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Anne Haraughty  
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Rev. Tyler Heston  
Minister to Youth

Barbara George  
Director of Membership  
Development

Rev. Corey Meyer  
Director of Mission Partnerships

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

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

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Co-Director of Music

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Lisa McCleish  
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## SAVE THE DATES



### Last 9:01 on the Lawn, Aug. 11

Our 9:01 service moves back to the Sanctuary on Aug. 18.

**Micah Ministry** Serve dinner from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., Aug. 12. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool.

### Backpack Blessing

Sun., Aug. 18. All school aged children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year, during the 9:01 a service.

### Parents' Night Out

Fri., Aug. 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

### Festival Sunday

Sun., Sept. 8, help us mark the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults. Featuring a lunch after worship with bounce house and games.

### State of the Church Dinner

Tues., Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

### Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, at noon.

### Community Camp 2020

Aug. 1-8, 2020

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

