



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Stretching to See



Rev. Carla Aday

Why Preach, Why

Listen is the title of a book I read many years ago. But the title still haunts me. Why do I preach and why do you listen?

It isn't to be "preachy," which has become a negative word that conjures up a haranguing of sorts, where a speaker claims to have some sort of superior truth that can be handed down from on high to those who need instruction.

Sometimes I picture that the sermon is a way that we have a conversation. Though I do the talking, I hold you in my mind as I read the scripture, wondering how that text intersects with the reality of our daily dilemmas: what to do about the son who keeps missing curfew; if it is time for a career change; battling the depression that doesn't respond to treatment; how to spend one's free time and other precious resources. As I study the scripture I'm always asking what light it sheds on the path we share.

If you have ever been in a courtroom you know that witnesses testify to what they have seen and heard so that we might discover the truth. We gather at church to hear one angle on the truth of life. We listen to what Bible proclaims and what perspective the wise voices in our Christian tradition propose. And I dare to utter

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Backpack Blessing

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

Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year, is this Sunday, Aug. 18. 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. Bounce house, games, fellowship and lunch (burgers and hot dogs) from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (\$8/person; \$30 max/family.)

Roots Kick Off is Aug. 25

New ministry for individuals ages 20s-30s

New this fall, this ministry is for individuals ages mid-20s to mid-30s. Maybe you just graduated college, moved to Kansas City, started a first career, are dating, single, or married, thinking about having kids but not quite yet... or at any of the "in-between" stages of finding your way through the early and important adulthood years: this group is for you. First gathering is Sun., Aug. 25 at The Well in Waldo following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Weekly gatherings TBD.

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From the Senior Minister

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what I have seen and heard about the movement of divine presence in our world today.

I'm at the convent in Atchison right now. (See photo below). Coming here helps me look at life from a new angle, which is what I think preaching is all about. I sat with some nuns at dinner and they said, "Oh we know your church. We were there when Sister Joan Chittister spoke. The Bishop wouldn't allow her to speak in one of our churches but you welcomed her." I laughed. "I like the banned speakers a lot," I tell them. The pulpit is a place that stretches us to see from the perspective of the divine creator. And this can make us squirm.

Emily Dickenson said, "tell the whole truth but tell it at a slant." Preachers and listeners testify to the truth of God's astounding love with their lives.

Grace and peace,

Carla



Small Groups Forming

A Neighborhood Communion Q&A

Q: What is Neighborhood Communion exactly?

A: Neighborhood Communion is a small group fellowship concept designed around the idea of communion and community—gathering with others in a casual setting to share fellowship and a small bite to eat.

Q: What's the purpose?

A: Neighborhood Communion gatherings are an opportunity for people to connect and relate in authentic ways. When we feel connected, we're more likely to feel fulfilled on our faith journeys, and more likely to engage in new and different ways. This helps us remember some things are too important to do alone.

Q: What's the format for the gatherings? When are they?

A: A group leader will set the time and location for the first gathering and help guide discussion, but after that the rest is up to your group. Your group might decide to rotate the host home, you might take turns bringing a small snack to contribute to the "communion" meal. Each group will meet three times in October and November.

Q: How do we do the communion part? Will there be prayers, bread and grape juice?

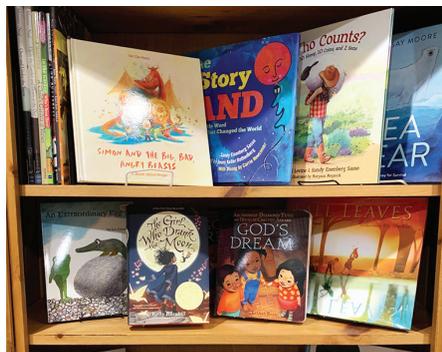
A: As Dr. Mike Graves has taught us, historically speaking communion wasn't a quiet, serious, somber ceremony. It was all about intimacy, inclusion, and joy. Communion is about caring for each other, sharing life as well as bread and wine.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Email Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org or sign up in the Parlor Aug. 25.

New Children's Books in The Well

There are lots of wonderful new children's books in The Well. What better special treat for the child in your life as the school year begins than a new book? Some of the titles include: *God's Big Plan*, *Growing in God's Love*, *Simon and the Big, Bad, Angry Beasts*, *When God Gave Us Words*, *What in the World Is Wrong with Gisbert*, and many more. Check them out on Sunday!



Centennial Collection Initiative

In 2020, Country Club Christian Church will celebrate its Centennial. As part of that celebration, a team is collecting information that will help tell the story of the church's history. Do you have memories, photos, or records about the church? Anything that might illustrate your connections to the church and those of your family and friends is welcomed. Watch for an information table in the parlor. Questions? Contact Rev. Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org.

State of the Church

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. Rev. Carla Aday will give a vision update and present the 2018-2019 annual report. RSVP to Jill Sullins at jills@cccckc.org.



Pulling Back the Curtain

Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth



One of the most surprising personal revelations I had in seminary was how much I liked sci-fi. It began when I devoured the entirety of *The X-Files* series during my sparse free time and continued with films and shows like *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Black Mirror*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Twin Peaks*. While my knowledge about the science-fiction genre as a whole is still limited, it's also sensible that this became a meaningful genre of film and television to me during my theological education.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the chance to preach on the “Second Coming” of Christ. I talked about how Christ is coming back all around us in those who are hungry, thirsty, and in need of welcome and hospitality (Matthew 25). I also talked about how I was raised believing that the Second Coming of Christ was something very different— instead of an ongoing reality, it was a future event yet-to-come. I grew up with the *Left Behind* movie and book series, a *sort-of* Christian take on sci-fi/fantasy that told a dramatic fictionalized story of Jesus’ Second Coming. The series represents what many Christians believe will actually happen: one day, Jesus will come back bringing supernatural signs and wonders, uniting all Christians with God and leaving all others to endure torment on earth until it is ultimately destroyed.

Much of the Biblical basis for beliefs about the second coming is from “apocalyptic literature” in the Bible, especially the book of Revelation. These narratives feature supernatural happenings and the ultimate fate of the world, often with dramatic elements like angels, demons, beasts, and plagues. They’re exciting, wacky, important, hard to understand, a bit like science fiction.

Science fiction uses impossible or not-yet-possible scenarios to tell a story about things that are real to us and our world now. I love *X-Files* because, amidst the stories about aliens and UFOs and other mysterious phenomena, it tells stories about the very real potentials and limits of human knowledge and belief. Similarly, apocalyptic literature in the Bible uses extravagant and supernatural narrative to tell the truth about things that were real to the people who were writing them— and things that are real to us now. The word “apocalypse” literally means something like “revealing” or “pulling back a curtain.”

We should read the book of Revelation, and other apocalyptic literature, not as a roadmap of specific events to come but instead as scripture that pulls back the curtain on a present reality. Barbara R. Rossing says that Revelation relies on “exaggerated imagery in order to heighten a sense of urgency and call readers to commitment and action.”

Next time you have some free time, pick up a Bible and read some of the book. It ends by describing “a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1). God builds a holy city, making all things new, with no more death, tears, mourning, or pain. When we let these words pull back the curtain on today’s world, we see both a world plagued by pain and a world in which God is working to make all things new. We’re called to find firm belief in the hope that the pain of this world will not have the final say. We’re also called to join with God in the business of making all things new, creating a world with no more death, tears, mourning, or pain. These parts of the Bible aren’t fantastical, foolish myths, but are extravagant stories that show us our own reality more clearly and that lead us to enact God’s transforming love in the world, here and now. ☩



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times
9:01, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m

August 18 - Backpack Blessing
Three Conversations with a Rabbi, Part 1: Noah
Genesis 9:8-17
Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

August 25
Three Conversations with a Rabbi, Part 2: Abraham
Genesis 12:1-9
Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Max Dewese Golf Tournament

The second annual Max Dewese Golf Tournament is Fri., Sept. 27, at noon at St. Andrews Golf Course. Proceeds benefit 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. Not a golfer? Donations welcome too! Sign up and donate atccckc.org/golf/. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.

Do You Follow Us?

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Faithpub

Led by Mike Graves with guest speakers. For men of all ages. Connect with other men looking for sacred conversations around stuff that matters. Speaker begins at 7:00 p.m., come early for dinner. Location: Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd.



Sept. 5: Ryan Zech, professional golfer; he and Mike Graves often talk theology while golfing.

Oct. 3: Tex Sample, Professor Emeritus, Saint Paul School of Theology.

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.

Reading Romans Again for the First Time

Mondays, Sept. 16 and 23. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Social Hall. Led by Dr. Mike Graves. Romans is the Apostle Paul's most important letter, and most confusing, "a long and winding road," to borrow a phrase. But it's worth another look, especially since there are alternative ways of reading it that have started to surface.

Pathways to Learning.

A series of elective offerings focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events and more. Visitors and guests welcome. Sundays, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Social Hall

Working for Justice and Equity in Kansas City
Sept. 22. Led by Lora McDonald, Executive Director of Metro Organization for Race and Economic Equity.

Faithbook

Women exploring spiritual matters and forming friendships. Includes group and small group discussion. Come and go as your schedule permits. Childcare is available by request to aprilb@cccckc.org.



Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Sept. 18-
Dec. 11, Room 206.

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30a.m., Sept. 17-Dec. 10.

Faithbistro

FaithBistro. For women of all ages, with guest speakers on spirituality and real-life issues. Connect with other women looking for conversations that matter. Meet at Blue Moose, 4160 W 71st St, Prairie Village, 5:30-8:00 p.m.



Sept. 26: Andrea Bough, Lewis Rice LLC; KCMO City Councilwoman

Oct. 24: Wendie Brockhaus, Assistant Curator at The Open Table

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.

Save the Date for Grace at Work

Half-day service project open to all ages and abilities. Sat., Oct. 5.



Partnership Days

In addition to Grace at Work, the Metro Mission team has scheduled two more partnership days for those who are looking to serve and have time on the weekends.

Sat., Sept. 7, 9:00 a.m. at The Urban Farming Guys
Fri., Nov. 7, 1:00 p.m. at Sheffield Place



a message from staff

The Courage to Ask for Help

By Paul Cutelli, Director of Technology



My fiancé is a person that needs to have a computer. Not only does Kae use it for her 3D-rendered designs and Photoshop artwork, she uses it to stream her painting hobbies online, her self-employed job. You can imagine her distress when she went into her workshop

one morning and discovered that something was wrong; the expensive machine would not start, no matter what she did.

After some initial diagnosis and internet searches, it was decided that a new part was needed and a trip was taken to the computer store to purchase a new power supply. The old device was taken out and the new secured into place. We plugged everything in and pressed the button... nothing. There was anger. There was sadness. Stress levels were reaching the “too-high” stage quickly and we needed help. Some folks would have probably just given up, perhaps even going so far as to buy a whole new computer, but Kae was not afraid to send out a SOS to her team of friends.

Enter David. David is a family friend who happens to love computers and is quite the self-professed electronic tinkerer. Despite his living a distance from us and having a full slate of work and raising his family, as soon as he heard of our trouble he came over to our midtown home. Advice was given, more purchases were made, and more trouble popped up. The entire time, David was patient and understanding and even came back late on a Saturday night to try to help us install all the complex pieces, never once complaining or asking for anything in return.

The computer, thankfully, is well on its way to be fixed, but only because Kae was willing to ask for help. It is a sad truth that society looks down upon asking for help as some sort of weakness. Yet, she was willing to be seen as vulnerable... and David was willing to show outrageous empathy in the face of that potential vulnerability.

Perhaps Former President Barrack Obama said it best: “Don’t be afraid to ask for help when you need it. I do that every day. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness, it’s a sign of strength. It shows you have the courage to admit when you don’t know something, and to learn something new.” 🍷

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

John “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.

Bob Marty

Judith and Orville Barrett

Margaret Brinkman

Judy Callaway

Jeanne and Perry Cockayne, *for Congregational Care*

Chuck and Marilyn Dreas

Lance and Pat Jessee

Doug and Rosanna Lordemann

Alex and Ann Margiotta

Maureen McGinty

Lori McKinley

Linda and Denney Rives

Carolyn Sellers

Doris Soltys

Bobbie Vanice

Gwen Miller, for Children and Youth Ministry

Brucie and Bill Hopkins

Chuck and Marilyn Dreas

Greg and Nancy Lear

Henry Muñoz

Greg and Nancy Lear

*** In Honor of Barbara George, Carla Aday and Joe Walker**

Richard, Carol and Leeor Arms

Youth Ministries

Middle School Pizza Tour

Sun., Aug. 18, from noon to 3:00 p.m. We will car-pool from the church to three local pizzerias. RSVP to 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; 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.

Dinners for High Schoolers

Grades 9 - 12 are invited to join us at Panera Bread, 8300 Mission Rd., Wednesdays, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4. from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We'll break bread, catch up, and connect. Tyler or another adult will lead a short discussion about faith and life. Please bring money for dinner; scholarships available. Sign up for text reminders at www.remind.com/join/cccckchs.

7th and 8th Graders Connect.

Youth in 7th and 8th grades are invited to special get togethers Tuesdays: Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, and Dec. 10. Some will be off-site; some will be hosted at the church. Get updates via our website, newsletter, or social media. A full calendar of events and texting reminders are at www.remind.com/join/cccckc78

High School Progressive Dinner

Sat., Sept. 14. Mark your calendars for a progressive dinner at church members' homes for high school students. Times and locations TBA.

Sunday Night Youth Groups

Spend the final hours of your weekend relaxing, connecting, and playing games with friends on Sunday nights 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (almost) every Sunday from Sept. 8 to Dec. 15. Each week includes a small supper, and activities for middle school and high school.

Children and Families



Our final Backyard Bash of the summer featured family yoga.

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.

MOPS Registration

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth - K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. For more information or to register email aprilb@cccckc.org.

Children's Sunday School

Footsteps in Faith: Shepherds Sundays

Aug. 18 and 25, 1st - 5th graders will begin Footsteps in Faith workshop series by meeting in grade levels with their Shepherds for Sunday School. Join us for get-to-know-you activities and informal fun from 10:00 - 10:50 a.m. Classes meet on the second floor Children's Wing.

Worship and Wonder begins Aug.18

Pre-School through Kindergarten will participate in Worship and Wonder during the Sunday School time. This Montessori style class presents simply told Bible stories that have room for wondering and allow for imaginations of children to connect the faith stories with their own life experiences. Join us these Sundays in August for an orientation to the worship center.

Club Kids Resumes in September

On Sundays, 3rd - 5th graders meet in the Social Hall at 5:00 p.m. for games, dinner, and group time.

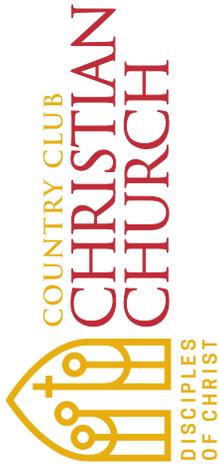


Christian Community Camp 2019



108 Community Campers enjoyed a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and intergenerational fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. If you'd like to experience all that Community Camp offers next year, we would love to share this experience with you. Save the date for Aug. 1-8, 2020. Registration for 2020 is open and available online at www.cccckc.org/community-camp-2020.

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Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Minister

Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology

Dr. Mike Graves
Scholar in Residence

Anne Haraughty
Ministries Coordinator

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

Sara Goering
Co-Director of Music

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood
Programs

Jason Ashley
Director of Operations

Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

April Booth
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Paul Tucker
Co-Director of Music

Rachel Clement
Director of Finance

Chris Wendelbo
Executive Director of Operations

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816-333-4917

email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

SAVE THE DATES



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Festival Sunday

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State of the Church Dinner

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

Max Dewese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, at noon.

Grace at Work

Sat., Oct. 5

Trunk or Treat

Sun., Oct. 27

Community Camp 2020

Aug. 1-8, 2020

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

