



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

With Hope and Love



Rev. Hord Owens

While Carla is on vacation this week, we are honored to have Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) writing in this space.

Dear friends in Christ,

I thank your pastor, Rev. Carla Aday, for the invitation to share some thoughts with you. And I thank your Minister of Spiritual Formation, Dr. Mike Graves, for graciously sharing his gifts with our General Assembly attendees in a workshop setting. Thank you also for being one of our top 100 giving congregations. Your faithfulness and dedication matter for the work of the whole Church.

One of my passions for the Church is that of renewing spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study. Study and immersion in the Word is foundational to us as a *movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.*¹ We cannot grow unless we are connected to the vine that is God² and that connection is best established in prayer, study and the community of other people of faith. I am not advocating a dogmatic form of study, but rather the critical engagement with our sacred text. By grounding ourselves theologically, we can both rise above differences that are more opinion than theology, and respect theological differences

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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. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (\$8/person; \$30 max/family), plus bounce house, games and fellowship! The Community Blood Center will be receiving donations in their Donor Bus

in the parking lot from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Book your appointment today at savealifenow.org/group, enter Group Code: QZA

New Look at 11:00 a.m.

Be inspired by the traditional worship. Be renewed by the classical music. Be challenged by the progressive message.

This fall we invite you to take a new look at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Starting Sun., Sept. 8, we'll be incorporating some changes into that service, designed to enhance the worship experience for all. If you're a regular at 11:00 a.m., don't worry; this service will retain the traditional and classic feel you love, with passed communion every week for all who wish to partake. Changes include:

- More time for silent meditation, because our lives are often hectic and noisy.
- Prayer and sermon later in the service, because it's not always easy to find time to be still in God's presence.
- Classic hymns and pipe organ because even in the modern times, there is power in tradition.
- Featured musical guests, along with our Chancel Choir, with musical offerings of varying styles consistent with traditional worship.
- More involvement of youth and families because we are enriched by inter-generational experiences.

Now is a great time to share information about this service with your friends who might be seeking a church home. A personal invitation from you might be all it takes to connect someone.

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From the Senior Minister

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that have been shaped by wrestling with the Spirit and the text, in peace and with love. Learning to walk together even when we disagree must become a “core competency” for all Christians, but it is especially at the heart of what it means to be “Disciple.”

I am convinced that there is a fresh wellspring of hope whenever we focus on what we believe about God. Job, the infamous man who lost everything, stood on his faith in God when he had lost everything. Yet, he shares this profound word: *“For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again.”*³ He goes on to say that *“at the scent of water it will bud...”*⁴ The scent of water...not a deluge, just the scent! With such hope, I share the confidence of Paul, who tells the Philippians that he has confidence in the One who has called them...⁵ When we feed our spirits with prayer and the Word of God, our confidence in God is strengthened, and we can move forward with hope and love.

Like Paul, I have confidence in the One who will complete the work to which we are called. And I am confident that each member of Country Club Christian Church will be a part of the growth of this movement for wholeness. May God bless and keep you all as we serve together. 🍷

¹ Disciples Identity Statement

² John 5: 1-5

³ Job 14:7

⁴ Job 14:9

⁵ Philippians 1:6



Join a Small Group

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-up in the Parlor or, contact Barbara George at 816-381-9251.

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.

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 atcccckc.org/golf/. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.

Grace at Work

Join us on Sat., Oct. 5 for Grace at Work, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community. Complimentary hot breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall before departing to work sites and picnic lunch in the North East to follow.



Partnership Day

In addition to Grace at Work, there are 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 Urban Farming Guys

Fri., Nov. 1, 1:00 p.m. at Sheffield Place

Contact Rev. Corey Meyer for more information.

Celebration of Membership

Join us on Sun., Sept. 15 for a Celebration of Membership during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as we welcome new members to our church family and give thanks for all of you who are part of our community. Whether you've been a member for life or just joined our congregation recently, we invite you to help us celebrate that morning with a reception at noon. If you are interested in joining the church that day, contact Barbara George.



Introducing Roots

Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships



A new thing is taking ground at Country Club Christian Church this fall! Last Sunday, a group of 12 met for brunch after worship at The Well Bar Grill and Rooftop in Waldo to kick off a new ministry called “Roots.” You may have noticed in our last edition of The Christian the launch of this new group for mid-20 to mid-30-year old people who are sharing similar experiences in life. You may be asking yourself, “What are similar experiences in life?” 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 is who we are! And, this is just a broad way to talk about what we envision for the growing of “Roots” this year.

We gathered just after the 11:00 a.m. worship service to enjoy one of the best brunch buffets that I think Kansas City has to offer. Some of us have been life-time friends, siblings that grew up in the church, recently married and joined the church, or even moved to Kansas City exactly one week ago and because of social media saw the gathering and said, “THAT is something I’d like to be a part of!” The conversation and becoming acquainted with one another were truly the best parts. We shared stories of where we went to school and how we are starting our careers off. There was talk about where we are living in town, our favorite parts of Kansas City, banter about college sports and true relationship building that I think is exactly what these small groups at a church ought to be like.

There was a lot of excitement around the table. And it’s only the beginning! If you find yourself looking for a group like Roots, or know people who would, please spread the word! We will have a regular meeting time beginning in September, and our next social brunch happening Sun., Sept. 29. 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

September 1

Three Conversations with a Rabbi, Part 3: Jacob

Genesis 32:22-31

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

September 8

A Life of Meaning

Part 1: Love

Luke 10:25-28

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

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.

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.

Understanding Your Grief Series

Led by Rev. Mary Linda McDonnell and Ms. Alta Fritz. Light reading and conversation. Twelve week series, Thursdays, (Sep. 19-Dec. 12, not Thanksgiving), 2:00-3:30 p.m. Room 207. Workbook \$15.

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.

New Monday Night Classes Begin soon

Reading Romans Again for the First Time

Sept. 16 and 23, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Social Hall

Monday evening classes begin with this study on Romans 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 – 8:30 p.m. Sept. 17-Dec. 10, Rm. 206.

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30a.m., Sept. 18-Dec. 11, Rm. 206.



Cathedrals and Castles of Scotland Trip

Sun., Sept. 1 is your last chance to sign up for the July 2020 Scotland trip. For more details or questions, contact Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org or (816-381-9255).

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

Virginia Reed Food Drive

During the month of September, we are collecting peanut butter, cereal and mac and cheese. Drop off donations anytime in the baskets located at the entry doors or at the Food Drive table in the parlor every third Sunday.

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.

Partnership Day

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. 1, 1:00 p.m. at Sheffield Place



a message from staff

One Neighborhood at a Time

By Barbara George, Director of Membership Development



How do you build Community? One neighborhood at a time.

My 8th grade class consisted of 53 students; classmates I had grown up with and known my whole, long life. Together we entered our high school of 4,000...1,000 in our freshman class. This could have been

pretty daunting were it not for our friendship and the support we provided one another while exploring and adjusting to our new environment. So many people to meet and so many opportunities for participation! Where to begin?

At Country Club Christian, one goal set before us by the Congregational Board is to offer pathways for spiritual development to people at all stages of life and faith. One path that we talk a lot about is building community through small groups. We are called to love our neighbor, across town and around the world. But do you literally know your neighbors down the street or just around the corner from you? Maybe they're some of the same people you see every Sunday at church.

Dr. Mike Graves first introduced us to celebrating "joyful communion" a couple of years ago. He talked about how the earliest Christians met every day to share a meal while moving to a different house each evening. Each person brought something for the meal to share with others—Mike called it the church's first pot-luck supper. They sat on the floor, discussed not only Jesus' teachings, but probably politics of the day. The common meal was the center point for Christian fellowship, followed by worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper. From all walks of life, everyone was included; everyone was welcome to share in the meal. Beyond the material benefits, the Christian community brought a new sense of belonging that had never been extended to society's marginalized people.

As a congregation we will again form small groups of 10 people and explore considerations of this meal: intimacy, inclusion and joy. On three evenings during October and November, members and guests alike are invited to participate in neighborhood groups across our area just as the early Christians did. Groups will experience fellowship around a meal and Mike will provide a guided discussion for each evening. From these neighborhoods we come together as one large congregation for Sunday worship and work together during the week for the greater good.

How do we build community? One neighborhood at a time. Come share in the experience.

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

Robert "Bob" Jones, Jr.
Lillian Witt

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

Barbara Horn
Phil Klever
Jo Strickler, *for Congregational Care*
Mary and Pete Thorsell

Youth Ministries

Dinners for High Schoolers - Nourish
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.

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 at church.

Youth Calendar

Many fall socials and events, from dinner parties to lock-ins, will happen in upcoming months! For more information, check out the full fall calendar online at cccckc.org/connect/youth-ministry/ and make sure to sign up for text reminders at remind.com/join/cccckc.



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

6th - 12th graders

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.

Tall Oaks Teambuilding

Save the date for Sun., Oct. 6. Youth and children will spend the day at Tall Oaks in Linwood, Kansas. Stay tuned for details.

Children and Families



We sent our students into the new school year with a blessing last Sunday. Have a great year everyone!

Partnership Day: Urban Farming Guys

Youth, children and families are invited to serve with the Urban Farming Guys, Sept. 7, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Children ages seven and up may meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for a ride with Catherine. We will be back in the chapel lot by 12:30 p.m. Younger children must be accompanied by a parent. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, clothes that can get dirty, and an eager spirit! RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Children's Sunday School

Service Learning Project

1st - 5th graders

Elementary age children will learn about the church's partnership with Hartman Elementary and create cookie mix jars to share with staff as a welcome to the new school year!

Club Kids for 3rd - 5th Graders

Begins Sun., Sep. 8. Make plans to join us Sunday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall for a time of community building, service and spiritual growth. Dinner provided weekly. Save the date for a special teambuilding event at Tall Oaks on Sun., Oct. 6.

MOPS

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.



Middle School and High School Youth Highlights in Pictures

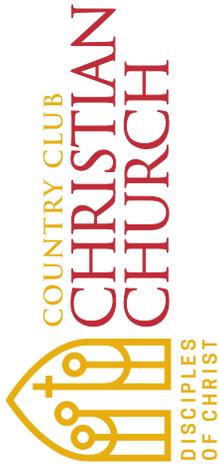


The Youth have been busy gearing up for an exciting new school year. Rev. Tyler Heston hosted a 6th grade welcome party to acquaint our incoming 6th graders to Youth Ministries and one another. The middle schoolers celebrated back-to-school week with a pizza tour. Sixteen Middle School Youth and five adults ate at Pizza 51, Minsky's, and Waldo Pizza. Ask someone who went how it was! They're probably still full.



The high schoolers celebrated back-to-school week with a BBQ tour—from Jack Stack to Q39 to... Betty Rae's. (We gave up and wanted ice cream.)

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SAVE THE DATES



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. Mobile Blood Drive from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

State of the Church Dinner

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

Celebration of Membership

Sun., Sept. 15, 11:00 a.m.

Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Fri., Sept. 27, noon, at St. Andrews Golf Course.

Grace at Work

Sat., Oct. 5, 8:00 a.m.- noon. Half day service projects followed by a picnic.

Guest Gathering

Sun., Oct. 15

Trunk or Treat

Sun., Oct. 27

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thurs., Nov. 21

Community Camp 2020

Aug. 1-8, 2020. Register at www.cccckc.org/community-camp-2020

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

