



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Measure of Faith



Rev. Carla Aday

On the evening of Sept. 10 I shared the Annual Report of the church at a lovely dinner gathering of church leaders. If you would like a peek, you can find it on our website*.

I'm tickled that we produce an annual report because it's good to pause and look back and see how we are doing financially, numerically, programmatically. Did we accomplish our goals? Is all our busyness really propelling us closer to our vision? It's also a good time to pat ourselves on the back. We should feel good about the 16,800 home-baked cookies we served and the 11, 537 meals we served to food insecure neighbors in KC. And we should remember where we missed the mark.

And at the same time, I feel kind of funny reducing what we do to a numbers game. Jesus said to forgive 70 times seven but other than that, he doesn't dwell on the numbers. He never swaggers about how many folks heard his Sermon on the Mount or how many folks John the Baptist baptized. Although he seemed pretty excited about feeding the 5000! Mostly though, he chases after the one lost sheep, one lost coin, one woman at the well, one blind man, or the two common criminals on either side of him as he breaths his last on the cross.

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October Concert Series

Be inspired by three unique concerts in our sanctuary. All are free, open to the public and followed by a reception.

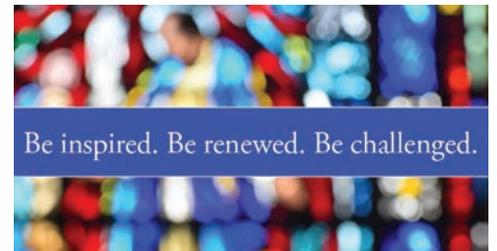
University of Kansas Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Tucker – Oct. 6, 4:30 p.m. Proceeds from free will offering will go to Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries located in Rio Grande Valley on the U.S./Mexico border, assisting refugees with necessities as they make their way to the next place of safety.

Nancy Zschietzschmann Memorial Bach Concert – Oct. 13, 2:30 p.m. The church, along with the Kansas City Alumni Chapter of the Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity and Fritz Zschietzschmann, present the Nancy Zschietzschmann Memorial Concert featuring the music of Bach. Nancy was a longtime church member and devoted member of Mu Phi Epsilon for 62 years. This concert will honor her, recognize emerging pianists, and encourage younger players. Student performers will be Mu Phi Epsilon members. Two professional musicians from the Kansas City Mu Phi organization will also perform. A reception will follow in the parlor. Refreshments will be provided by the Koinonia Sunday School Class, the class to which Fritz and Nancy belonged for many years.

Classical Music Sampler for Children (Adults Welcome Too!) – Oct. 20, 5:00 p.m. Get a closer look at some of the most well-known classical instruments. This fun and educational concert will feature an assortment of instrumentalists presenting classical solos, duets, and small ensemble pieces designed to appeal to children and adults.

A New Look at 11:00 a.m.

We invite you to take a new look at the 11:00 a.m. service. Recent changes to the order of worship include more time for silent meditation; prayer and sermon later in the service; featured musical guests along with our chancel choir, and passed communion every week for all who wish to partake. Be renewed, inspired and challenged at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday



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From the Senior Minister

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So the bigger measure of our faith is harder to count or tally. Have we been filled with God's spirit and have we accomplished God's justice? Have we loved with greater measure or forgiven 70 times seven? Does our participation in a group of Christians shape us?

So what I wish you would do this week, and I will do it too, is to take a few moments to look back at your own journey in the last 12 months and ask yourself and the living God: Have I hit the marks I set for myself in terms of spiritual growth? Only you know what goals were written on your heart by God. Perhaps to express your faith in community service or to dive into a Bible study or to pray more regularly. Maybe to worship more faithfully or to read a book that expands your intellectual grasp of God's wide mercy. Or simply to slow down and spend more time with people you love who reveal the face of God. I don't know. But you probably do. And how shall we measure that unquantifiable grace of God poured out on us? Do our lives reveal the living Christ?

With grace and peace, ☩

Carla

*www.cccckc.org/annual-report-2018-2019/



Golf Tournament Proceeds Support Veterans

The 2nd annual Max Dewese Golf Tournament is on Fri., Sept. 27, with lunch at noon and a 1:30 shotgun start, at St. Andrews Golf Course. We are honored to welcome special guest Jason Kander to play in the tournament, which benefits the Veterans Community Project, an organization Kander is working to expand beyond Kansas City. Sign-up (\$150 per person), form a team, and sponsor a hole (\$750). For information or to register, visit cccckc.org/golf/ or contact Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.



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.

Metro Mission

Grace at Work is Oct. 5

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, the Metro Mission team has scheduled a partnership service day on Fri., Nov. 1, 1:00 p.m. at Sheffield Place.

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

In September we are collecting white serger thread and gently used (not new) sheets and pillowcases for the sewing ministry to make bed pads for cancer action and pillowcase dresses. Please leave donations in the basket in the Parlor.



reflections

Curious? Of course!

Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



I re-learned an important lesson over the summer. As is almost always the case, I learned it more by happy accident than by design. The lesson, simply stated, is that we humans are naturally curious creatures.

Recently I have had a lot of conversations here and elsewhere about burial options that are more respectful of the earth which God has entrusted to our care. It is an important cultural and environmental conversation. Now you might think people would avoid talking about burial because you have to talk about death. In fact, just the opposite has been my experience; the intense interest pleasantly surprised me.

People have asked really insightful and essential questions, especially around the emerging technology of water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis). The most common one is, “So, where does ‘the body’ go?” Answer: in a warm water solution it gently breaks down into the basic components from which it was constructed, “sugars, salts, small peptides, amino acids, soap, and minerals.”

Just think about that one answer for a moment and your mind is filled with new questions that burst forth like fireworks in the night sky. There are spiritual questions about how God made us. And what happens when we die (Gen. 3:19). And about the resurrection of the body. There are equally wonderful avenues of inquiry in the sciences — biology, anthropology, ecology, and cosmology — just for starters.

One question leads to another. Our God-given desire to pursue existential questions is exhilarating and dynamic because these are questions about who we are. They matter. Our culture would distract us with trivia but, to borrow an image from Isaiah, why would you spend your time “on that which does not satisfy” (55:2)? Once unleashed, our natural curiosity draws us into ever-more meaningful reflection, penetrating cultural inhibitions and pushing aside personal fears. “Could it be freeing rather than disempowering,” writes Sunita Puri, MD, “to understand that the body — born of nature and subject to its laws — has its limits? That no matter how strong our determination to live, our bodies will eventually die?”

This academic year our Stephen Ministry is going to help raise essential questions. First, we are hosting “Stubborn is not a Plan,” by Helen Emmott, nurse, author, and aging specialist. She teaches family strategies to develop caregiving, health, financial, and residence plans in anticipation of aging and serious illness. That class is Mon., Oct. 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the social hall. It is free and everyone is welcome. Come, bring the person responsible for your care, invite a neighbor, and offer a ride to someone who otherwise could not attend.

Later in the year we will offer an introduction to Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences (TPOPP). These documents help patients communicate with the medical community. This is very important work being done right here in Kansas City at the Center for Practical Bioethics.

P.S. I have an article on green burial options coming out in the fall issue of the Funeral Consumers Alliance newsletter which will be on-line at <http://funeralskc.org/>



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

September 15

A Life of Meaning
Part 2: Community

Romans 12:1-18

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

September 22

A Life of Meaning
Part 3: Service

Mark 10:35-41

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

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 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.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

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.

New Doors into the Book of Revelation

Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and 14. Led by Dr. David May, Professor of New Testament, Central Seminary. Abused. Misused. Corrupted. Distorted. The strange book of Revelation, unfortunately, has all these characteristics in common. In this interactive study we'll consider a variety of legitimate "doors" for entering into the last book in the Bible so as to appreciate its visual, theological, poetic, and pastoral depth of meaning.

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.

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.

Affordable Housing in Kansas City. Sept. 29. Led by Tara Raghuvver, Lead Organizer of KC Tenants; and Jarrod Sanderson, Executive Director of Housing Development, Neighborhoods of Hope.

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.



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



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.

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





a message from staff

Sharing Our Gifts

By April Booth, Director of Children's Ministries



walked into my office and saw the little wooden animals on my desk that Bill Mace carved for our Sunday School lesson. Children in one of the preschool classrooms were excited to show me the new butterfly that emerged from its cocoon from the caterpillar Marie found a few Sundays ago. This morn-

ing several people commented on how beautiful the flowers on the entry table were; flowers that Maureen arranges every week. Then a fellow staff member shared how she was grateful for what an amazing team we have and how we all use our different talents and abilities so well together.



Behind all of these things are people who spend their time, energy and talents giving to others and giving to us. I love that I get to see these things happen during the week and now on Sundays too. Stop by any day of the week and you will find people busy using their talents and giving their time. Everything from cutting communion bread and knitting scarves to delivering food to our partner organizations.

What are the things you enjoy and are good at? Are there ways you could incorporate your hobbies and talents into serving? Need some ideas?

- Talk with any clergy or staff member – All ministry areas are doing great things.
- Grace at Work is on October 5 – Many kinds of projects will be going on, sign up in the parlor.
- Trunk or Treat is coming up – Decorate your car or donate candy!
- Youth Group and Club Kids eat together every Sunday Night – Do you cook?
- Thanksgiving Dinner is coming up – Can you set a table and fold napkins?
- Fall is coming – Can you help the Green Team with the changing of the landscaping?

Thank you to all of you who serve to generously. We do so many great things as a faith community because so many of you use your time and talents. I feel so grateful that I get to see so many positive things happening every day and the joy that comes from sharing your talents is contagious. If you ever want to see, just pause and look around at all that is happening. 🍷

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

Mazie I. Tucker, Paul Tucker's mother

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

- Bill and Jan Daniels
- Jim and Janet Elkan
- Cindy and Randy Irey, *for Youth Ministry*
- Peggy and Carty Johannsen
- Tom and Martha Lieser
- Bob and Kay Moffat
- Marie Newton
- Hank and Joan Riffe
- Connie Rose
- Sally Schleu

Sale in The Well

Stop into The Well this morning for 50 percent off select summer items. Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

Week of Compassion Disaster Response

As Hurricane Dorian and its aftermath start to move out of the news cycle, it's important to remember our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas who have lost everything. If you are seeking a way to help, we encourage donations to Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church. More information at www.weekofcompassion.org.

Youth Ministries

High School Progressive Dinner

High school students are invited to join us for a progressive dinner on Sat., Sept. 14. We'll meet at the church and carpool to three homes for parts of the dinner. RSVP to Tyler Heston at tylerh@cccckc.org

Dinners for High Schoolers - Nourish

Grades 9 - 12 are invited to join us at Panera Bread, 8300 Mission Rd., Wednesdays, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We'll break bread, catch up, and connect. Please bring money for dinner; scholarships available.

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.

7th and 8th Graders Connect

Youth in 7th and 8th grades are invited to special get togethers Tuesdays: Oct. 8, Nov. 5, and Dec. 10. Some will be off-site; some will be at church.

Middle School Lock-in (Grades 6-8)

Join us for a Middle School Lock-in from 7:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 8, until 9:00 a.m. the following morning. We'll play games, eat snacks, watch a movie, and more. Cost is \$5. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

High School Lock-in (Grades 9-12)

Save the date for a High School Lock-in starting at 6:30 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 16. Details about activities and cost to come. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

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/cccycy.

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 through Dec. 15. Each week includes a small supper, and activities for middle school and high school.

Children and Families



Children put together cookie jars to welcome teachers at Hartman Elementary back to school.

Children's Sunday School: Garden of Eden 1st - 5th graders

We begin the workshop series that will focus on the Garden of Eden. In this four-week series children will learn about how our choices can help us grow in relationship with God. Through cooking, science experiments, painting with light and tree storytelling we will explore one of the first stories in the bible.

Club Kids for 3rd - 5th Graders

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.



Third graders received a bible from the church on Festival Sunday. First Row (l-r): Madeline Ludlow, Lauren Zschoche, Isaiah Macinstosh, Ellen Koch. Second row (l-r): Hoffman Alsobrook, Walker Cobb, Sylvie Erdmann, Eleanor Feitz, Miles Johnson, Jonah Seacreas. Not pictured: David Brabner; Tyren Lee; Audrey McElduff; Zander Reynolds



Festival Sunday Celebration



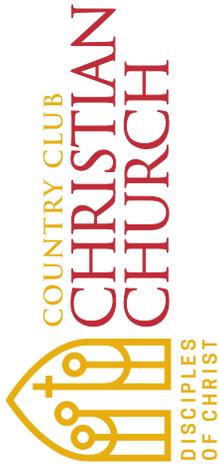
Sept. 8 was Festival Sunday, at which we celebrated third grade bible presentations and enjoyed a picnic after worship. Thanks to everyone who helped make Festival Sunday such a great day.

Service Learning Project



Children, Youth, and Families served at The Urban Farm Guys on Sat., Sept. 7.

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SAVE THE DATES



Max Dewese 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.

Teambuilding for Children and Youth

Sun., Oct. 6 at Tall Oaks

Guest Gathering

Sun., Oct. 13

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](http://www.cccckc.org/community-camp-2020)

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

