



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Showing Up at the Table



Rev. Carla Aday

“Is this an uncomfortable place for you to be?” a sister asked her brother. It seemed like a strange question to ask given the setting. The wedding

guests were joyously dancing on the dance floor. The cousins had just sung a duet, an old spiritual. The children were savoring a slice of wedding cake. But the sister knew her brother well. She knew that he didn't always agree with the rest of the family. And she wondered if he was uncomfortable with the fact that the nuptials they had just witnessed on a lovely fall day in a rural barn were between two women.

He looked his sister directly in the eye. He nodded yes. “Thank you for asking” he told her. She decided not to try to change his mind. She decided to just listen. He opened up. He didn't try to change her mind. He said that he had struggled with the whole thing. Wasn't sure what to do. Then he went to talk to a trusted friend in his church. His friend encouraged him to go to the wedding, to honor the importance of family. And so he decided that the most important thing he could do was to “keep showing up at the table.”

As we approach the Thanksgiving



Advent Sermon Series: Joy to the World

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas carol, turns 300 this year. Rather than “joy” being another word for “happiness,” we discover that the depths of joy can be found in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion. Jesus came into this world with this deeper message of joy that the world so desperately needs. Whether joy seems elusive or reverberates loudly within you, come gather to sing of the wonders of love that the newborn Prince of Peace brings.



Join us for a workshop for children birth through 5th grade, on Sun., Nov. 24, 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$5/person, \$20/family. Includes light lunch and make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season.

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and Christmas holidays, many of us will be invited to keep showing up at the table with those whom we disagree on impeachment, climate change, and our beloved faith. The divisiveness of our country shows up at the dinner table with our dearly beloved friends and family. Is this an uncomfortable place for you to be?

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus discusses how to handle conflict and what to do when you have forgiven someone so many times you are too tired to forgive them once more. The conflict Jesus addresses is conflict that takes place within the church. And in the middle of that section, Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”. What binds them together is not agreement but a love so much larger than their personal opinions. We can only glimpse that beautiful and holy unity if we “keep showing up at the table.” 🍷

Grace and peace,

Carla



This festive family event is Sat., Dec. 14, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. and includes Christmas music, a visit with Santa, family photos, crafts, and holiday refreshments. We will also fill Christmas stockings for our friends at Micah Ministry, which serves individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness in Northeast Kansas City.

Mom's Apple Pie: A Recipe from Rev. Aday

Rev. Carla Aday was featured in the Kansas City Star's *Come Into My Kitchen* last week. She shared a treasured family recipe for Mom's Apple Pie, which is from her mother-in-law, Helen. Carla says, “She did not use a written recipe. She added ingredients by the handful, eyeing the amount and not measuring anything. I wanted to learn how she did it, so I started following behind her as she baked this pie. Each time she added an ingredient, I would take it out of the bowl and measure it. I carefully wrote it down, so I ended up with the recipe.”

CRUST:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup shortening, chilled
3 to 4 tablespoons ice cold water,
or as needed

TOPPING:

Heavy cream, half and half or milk
Sugar
Vanilla ice cream

FILLING:

3 pounds apples (such as Jonathan, Granny Smith, McIntosh or other baking apples) peeled, cored and sliced
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
(Pensey's preferred)
Dash salt

TO PREPARE THE CRUST: Mix together the flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Add the shortening and cut with a pastry blender or fork until the mixture is the size of peas. Sprinkle the cold water over the flour mixture and blend until the pastry comes together to form a ball. Shape the dough into two balls, one slightly larger than the other. Wrap in plastic and chill for 30 minutes or up to overnight.

Roll out the larger ball of dough on a lightly floured board, rolling it as thin as you can handle it. Place the crust in a 9-inch deep dish glass pie pan.

To fill the crust, mix together the apple slices, sugar and 2 tablespoons flour. Place the apple mixture in the pastry lined pie pan. Sprinkle the apples with the cinnamon and salt. Top the apples with pieces of butter.

Roll out the top crust on the floured board, rolling as thin as you can. Top the pie with this crust. Trim the top and bottom edges of the crust and then crimp with fingers or a fork.

At this point, you may place the pie in the refrigerator overnight and bake it the next day, or you can bake it now. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Before baking the pie, poke a few holes in the top pie crust, brush it lightly with heavy cream, half and half or milk and sprinkle lightly with sugar.

Bake the pie 1 hour or until the crust begins browning and the pie filling is bubbling. Let the pie sit 1 hour before cutting. Serve the pie warm or at room temperature. Serve topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



reflections

Students of History

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



I can distinctly remember that upon witnessing one particularly unusual historical event I uttered this incredibly foolish prediction, “We will never see anything like this again in our lifetime.” Oh my, the things you say when you’re 18 (or 63, for that matter)!

I should have known better. My buddies were all history and political nerds. We didn’t party or drink. We weren’t good at sports. We were just average students. Our social life was much less interesting than we would have liked. So we sat in my grandmother’s unfinished basement and watched news programs on a black and white TV. We read the newspaper and books. We went to lectures and workshops. We volunteered for this cause or candidate and then the next. We pontificated and prognosticated on world affairs.

So, I should have more aware of the endless loop in which humankind seems to be caught.

As a people we make great – sometimes heroic – strides in lifting up the dignity of all our sisters and brothers. We strive for peace and equal rights and safe living and work conditions for all. Hmm...then we get lax. Selfishness, pride, fear, sloth, and other sins fissure our country or congregation or neighborhood. We are stampeded into tribalism. We have to relive our nightmares and relearn hard lessons.

Ancient church mystics were wise to embrace a season of prayer, reflection, and confession in preparation for celebrating the birth of the Messiah. Those students of humanity and history recognized that Jesus coming to us, and us following Jesus, were often very different. Advent calls us to a reckoning of how we are living out Jesus’ teachings, particularly as they relate to our responsibilities in larger social and civic structures, before we celebrate anew the birth of the King of Justice and Peace.

As Advent begins this year, we have a rich variety of resources to guide us into the season with intentionality and contemplation. For instance, this prayer spoke to my heart and how I am experiencing this era in our history: “God of love...break the vicious cycles, and kindle in us once again a passion for the possible.” – Walter Brueggemann, *Devotions for Advent, Celebrating Abundance* (available in The Well).

Families can download a beautiful activity book based on the work of Barbara Brown Taylor – *An Illustrated Advent for Families: In Light and Darkness* at <https://store.illustratedministry.com/>

Each year, several of our staff and clergy write advent devotions. Follow our Facebook page to read daily advent devotions during the month of December, or read them at cccckc.org/advent2019. 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

November 24

Is God Still Speaking?

Luke 23:33-43

Part 4: Forgiveness

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

December 1

Joy to the World! Part 1

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Guest Gathering

Whether you’re a new visitor, or you’ve been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee on Dec. 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251.

Poinsettia Sales

Support Country Club Christian Church’s Youth Ministry Mission Trips by purchasing a Christmas poinsettia in the parlor on Sundays through Dec. 1. Payment must be received with order. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 8, at the church. \$15 for a 6-inch plant, \$20 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Roots

This new ministry is for individuals ages mid-20s to mid-30s, in the “in-between” stages of finding your way through the early and important adulthood years. Weekly gatherings at 10:00 a.m. Rm. 207. Contact Corey Meyer for details at coreym@cccckc.org.



Pick-up Choir

The music of the Advent season prepares our hearts for the joy of Christmas. Have you always wanted to sing with the Chancel Choir during this season, but can't commit to weekly rehearsals? Here's your opportunity. A Pick-up Choir will meet on Sun., Dec. 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room to prepare an anthem to sing during the 11:00 a.m. service that day. All are invited!

Country Club Singers Christmas Concert

A presentation of Christmas favorites, featuring the Jubilee Ringers. Sun., Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

KC Brass Holiday Concert

In a long-held tradition, we welcome back the Kansas City Brass for a fun evening of sacred and secular favorites, interspersed with the good-natured humor of the Brass musicians. Tues., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Schedule

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service. Children will be invited to dress as angels or shepherds and will join the Holy family during the service.

8:00 p.m. – The magic of Christmas comes alive in candle-light and song during this traditional service featuring the Kansas City Brass.

11:00 p.m. – The Kansas City Brass, communion and carols lead us to the lighting of the Christmas candles at midnight.

Post-Christmas Schedule

The church offices will be closed on Wed., Dec. 25 and Thurs., Dec. 26. On Sun., Dec. 29, one service only at 10:30 a.m. No Sunday School; child care will be available.

Mission Partnerships

Micah Ministry

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., Dec. 9. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool to Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Return to church at 7:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Jackie Cunningham at 816-246-6202.

Christmas Stockings for Micah Ministry

Make Christmas brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry. Purchase socks in the Parlor for \$1/pair or \$12 for 12. Fill with supplies (small sized toiletries, lotion, lip balm, washcloth, etc.; please, no candy or food items.) Tie the tops with a ribbon and bring to the Parlor no later than Sun., Dec. 15.

Service Learning Trips

Ecuador Mission Trip Rescheduled

The fall 2019 Ecuador service/learning trip was rescheduled from October 2019 to January 17 – 24, 2020, and a few spaces remain open for this trip. For details contact Nancy Lear at nancylear@gmail.com or Corey Meyer at coreym@cccckc.org.

Nicaragua Feb. 23-29, 2020

Visit our partner CEPAD in Managua, Nicaragua to be present in the community and learn how to continue to improve the lives of children and families through hands-on projects and clinics. Participants must be over 18 years old. Deadline: Dec. 1 2019. Cost TBD (approx. \$1,400)

Puerto Rico May 28-June 1, 2020

Visiting our international partner ICDCPR – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico to be present in the community and continue efforts to rebuild homes and lives following the disaster of Hurricane Irma in 2017. This year's trip will focus on “young adult” members for a long-weekend trip, however, all are welcome! Deadline: Feb. 1. Cost TBD (approx. \$1,000)



a message from staff

Grateful

By Rachel Clement, Director of Finance



Each time I write a check to pay a bill I am reminded that your contributions make so many things possible. It may only be the electric bill, but that bill keeps the building open not only Sunday morning but for meetings and events like the Christmas Festival. Or it is a grant for Della Lamb or the North East Community Center. The generosity of your gifts should be celebrated.

I know you have many options when you consider your year-end giving but I hope that you remember that gifts to Country Club Christian Church touch lives in so many ways, both inside our congregation and in the world at large.

There are so many ways to make a gift to the church. You can give through our online giving with your credit card or automatic deduction from your checking account. Hopefully you saw the article in a recent issue of the newsletter informing you about giving to the church through your IRA. I have already received many calls from members donating stock to the church. And of course we always accept checks and cash! Please remember now is a great time to bring your annual pledge up to date. All gifts to be credited for the 2019 tax year must be in the church office by noon Tues., Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailing to the church.

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support of Country Club Christian Church and its ministries at this time of year and all year long. ☺

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the family and friends of **Carol J. Smith**

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.

Carol Nichols, for Music Ministry

Dale and Jonna Hunter

Jarene Stanford

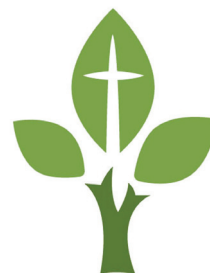
Dale and Jonna Hunter

Caring for Creation: Coffee Cups

Can we talk about coffee? Did you know that disposable coffee cups and their lids are not recyclable nor compostable? Although the cups are made of paper, they are also lined with plastic to prevent leakage. The lids fall into the wheels of the recycling sorter and bind up the line. Like many to-go containers, they should not be put in the recycling bins.

Country Club Christian Church purchases disposal cups that are sustainably sourced but the best source is a cup you can reuse. We spend approximately \$2,500 a year on paper goods. We invite you to bring your favorite to-go cup or use one of the reusable cups in the parlor. Just drop it off in the bin when you leave and we will do the dishes.

This is one small step that helps us be better stewards of our resources and leaves only coffee rings.



Youth Ministries

Youth Thanksgiving

Join us for a special dinner off-site in celebration of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24. Instead of normal youth programming, we will meet at Waldo Pizza on Nov. 24, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.. Bring \$10 for food!

Dinners for High Schoolers - Nourish

Grades 9-12 are invited to join us at Panera Bread, 8300 Mission Rd., Wed. 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.

Pastors' Class Information Session

Sun., Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m., Youth Center. Open to 6th grade youth and parents. Contact Tyler Heston for more information at tylerh@cccckc.org.

Connect Socials for 7th and 8th Graders

Every second Tuesday through April. Join us for dinner and holiday cookie decorating on Tues., Dec. 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.. RSVP to tylerh@cccckc.org.

Youth Christmas Party

Join us for the 2019 youth Christmas party on Sun., Dec. 15, 4:15 to 7:30 p.m. (Note the change from Dec. 22 as originally planned). Meet at church to carpooling to Crown Center for dinner, ice skating, white elephant gift exchange, and hot chocolate. Please bring \$5 for skating and money for dinner in the Crown Center food court. RSVP to aprilb@cccckc.org.



Khadra Gurhan, Social Services director at Della Lamb, visited Youth Group and ClubKids on Nov. 17. She shared about our mission partner Della Lamb Community Services and their work with refugees and told her own story about becoming a refugee from Somalia when she was a teenager.

Children and Families



Footsteps of Faith — 1st-5th Graders

November Workshop Series: Ruth

4th-5th graders create mosaic paper hearts after learning how in Ruth's story, hearts are united in love, ripped apart by separation, broken by grief, renewed with hope and expanded by the birth of a child. The paper hearts serve as a reminder of Ruth.

Family Service Project

Come and help winterize the community garden at Scraps KC on Fri., Nov. 29, 1:00-3:30 p.m. We will be pulling up landscaping fabric, spreading mulch and adding compost. All tools and supplies provided. This is a great all ages service opportunity. Come for whatever time you can. RSVP to aprilb@cccckc.org.

Family Caroling

On Sun., Dec. 1, Families and children of all ages are welcome to join us for caroling and dinner. We will gather at 4:45 p.m. and head to homes of members who are not able to often join us. We will end in the social hall to share a dinner together.

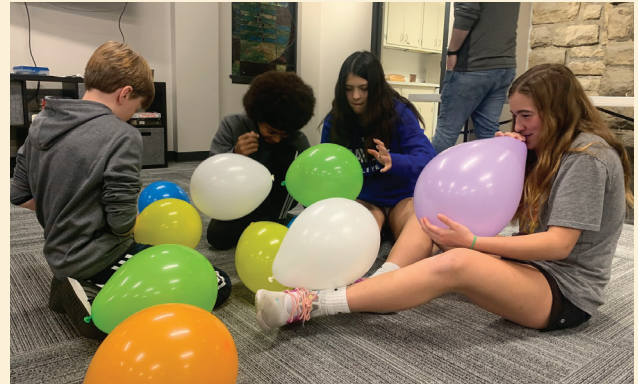
Advent in Advance

Join us for a workshop for families on Sun., Nov. 24, 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Includes light lunch and a make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season. Cost is \$5/person, \$20/family. Guests are complimentary.





Middle School and High School Lock-Ins



The last couple of weekends have been busy for our Youth Ministry team. Two weeks ago, middle schoolers played games and watched movies with friends at a sleepover in our church. Our high schoolers had a blast at the high school lock-in. last weekend. Highlights include pizza, bowling at Pinstripes, and hide and seek in our big, dark, church building.

Welcome our Newest Members



Liz and Michael Collins
Host, Diana and Don Bennett



Julia and Matt Seymour
Host, Sara and Chris Christensen



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

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Scholar in Residence

Rev. Tyler Heston
Minister to Youth

Rev. Corey Meyer
Director of Mission Partnerships

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

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Minister of Congregational Care

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April Booth
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Paul Cutelli
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Sara and Alex Goering
Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students

Sara Goering
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SAVE THE DATES



Advent in Advance

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Christmas Festival

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This festive family event includes Christmas music, a visit with Santa, family photos, crafts, a service project, and holiday refreshments.

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8:00 p.m. - Traditional service with the KC Brass.

11:00 p.m. - The Kansas City Brass, communion and carols lead us to the lighting of the Christmas candles at midnight.

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For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

