



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Dec. 20, 2019 | Vol. 93 No. 26

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister *Joy to the World*



Rev. Carla Aday

O *Little Town of Bethlehem, What Child is This, Angels we Have Heard on High, and Silent Night* all vie for first place. What is your favorite carol? None

makes my heart soar more than *Joy to the World*, especially when the trumpets and organ lets loose on Christmas Eve and we sing with abandon. It's enough to rattle one's reluctant faith to life. Since this is the 300th anniversary of the beloved carol, I did some research on it.

I had never realized that it has four layers of composition. It began thousands of years ago when a faithful Hebrew writer composed Psalm 98 which begins "Make a joyful noise all the earth." Centuries later, a brilliant and counter-cultural Christian in England named Issac Watts penned a poem hymn based on this Biblical Psalm. And a contemporary composer in London borrowed some measures from Handel's Messiah and set Watts' words to music. After another century passed, an American in Boston, Lowell Mason, published the arrangement we still sing today.

This layering of beauty reminds me of how our lives unfold. On Christmas we celebrate using traditions we have inherited from our families and friends as well as ones we have

continued on page 2



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 candlelight 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.

Dr. Matthew Thompson Called as Director of Music

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce the calling of Dr. Matthew Thompson as the church's new fulltime Director of Music. Working collaboratively with Dr. Paul Tucker, Dr. Thompson will manage the music ministry and serve as principal organist beginning January 1.

Dr. Thompson is an accomplished organist, conductor, composer, pianist, and music technologist. He holds a bachelor's degree in organ performance from Utah State University; a master of music degree in church music, organ emphasis, and a doctorate of musical arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Kansas, where he studied with Dr. Paul Tucker.

Most recently he founded and directed a non-profit semi-professional organization, Vox Humana Choral Ensemble, a women's choir whose performances featured mainly sacred choral literature accompanied by organ. As a choral conductor, he has worked with large and small ensembles in various genres. As a church musician, he has been both a music director, choir director, organist, and accompanist.

continued on page 2



IN THIS ISSUE



New Neighborhood Communion Small Groups Forming	page 2
Hand in Hand on the Journey by Catherine Stark-Corn	page 3
Behind the Scenes by Chris Wendelbo.	page 5

From the Senior Minister

continued from page 1

added along the way. At our house, we bake kolaches, a Czechoslovakian pastry I grew up eating in Texas. We sit down to a candlelight dinner using the special china, carrying on a tradition set by my mother and aunt. And we carefully unwrap each ornament, remember the church members who gifted us those treasures at an ornament shower when we got married 27 years ago. At the same time, we have added our own layers: a comical gift exchange with our children, aunts and uncles; a special drink by the tree after all the Christmas Eve services are over.

This layering of tradition with new practices mirrors our faith as well. We take from the past the witness and testimony of the founders of our faith. We embrace the stories from the Bible and the bold leadership of Christian heroes and heroines throughout the centuries. But we add on what we have discerned as truth in our own experience. Because a true faith leads to joy! Joy not only for us but for the world! 🍷

Grace and peace,

Carla

Dr. Matthew Thompson Called as Director of Music

continued from page 1

Dr. Thompson's wife, Sharee, is also an accomplished musician and organist and they enjoy opportunities to collaborate. They have three children, Clara, 12, Andrew, 10, and David, 1. Dr. Thompson is leaving employment as a software engineer and is excited to make a return to music full-time.

Dr. Thompson looks forward to sharing his vision and passion for music and worship, and to collaborating with Dr. Tucker, the staff, choir, and church members to engage the congregation in meaningful and inspiring worship. His goals include supporting both traditional and creative approaches to music and worship, expanding cultural initiatives that will result in outreach and connection with the community, and developing a clear vision for the music ministry that builds on the legacy of the past while laying a foundation for the next 100 years.

"I am really excited to be a part of a welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and loving community that highly values music and worship and am grateful to answer the call to serve in this capacity as a music minister," said Dr. Thompson.

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.

Christmas Offering

Every year during this season, we have an opportunity to share in the Christmas offering, benefiting outreach and mission partners in our community.

This year, our generous gifts will aid in alleviating hunger for our neighbors in Kansas City through our partners at Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Harvesters Community Food Network, and Micah Ministry. Your gifts during this Christmas season will benefit each of these organizations working to help alleviate hunger so that our neighbors can work, go to school, and raise families without the anxiety of where their next meal is coming from.



Merry Christmas from the Country Club Christian Church staff! First row (left -right) Barbara George, Leslie Tenjack, Rachel Wymore, Carla Aday, Paul Tucker. Second row (left-right) Adam Guevara, Rachel Clement, Joe Walker, April Booth, Mike Graves, Carla Rauth, Paul Cutelli, Catherine Stark-Corn, Anne Haraughty, Tyler Heston, Corey Meyer, Jason Ashley, Chris Wendelbo, and Lara Schopp. Not pictured: Lisa McCleish, Sara and Alex Goering and Andrew Morris.



reflections

Hand in Hand on the Journey

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



“Three in five,” my oldest son, home from college for the holiday, says to me as I make dinner and he hangs out with me in the kitchen. I ask what he means, assuming it is some statistic related to something he is gazing at on his phone. He looks up at me and says, “You know, this will be another holiday season with one less grandparent. We have lost three of ours in five years.” I stare at him, taking it in, doing the math in my head

yet it is not the numbers I am calculating. Truly it is the losses, the visits we won’t have to divide between numerous homes, the conversations subtracted from the holiday week, the addition of supplemental gifts we give the boys to cover the absence of three grandparents, the multiple times memories of Christmas at my parents’ or New Year’s with my husband’s dad come rushing into my mind.

This time of year can be filled with such excitement, anticipation and fun yet the emphasis on family can also be painful. We gather to celebrate the mystery of the birth of Christ, perhaps in the shadow of the loss of one not present to the celebration. It can be eased when we know we are not alone. I am reminded of Ann Weems poem in her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, part of *Yesterday’s Pain* speaks to me.

Some of us walk in Advent
Tethered to our unresolved yesterdays
The pain still stabbing, The hurt still throbbing
It’s not that we don’t know better;
It’s just that we can’t stand up anymore by ourselves
On the way to Bethlehem, will you give us a hand?

On our way to celebrate the birth of Christ we journey together in this family of faith. On Sunday mornings we lift up our voices to pray and to sing, we pass the cup and loaf, we stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ and in that moment we may be reaching out to one who needs a hand on this journey.

Caring for Creation: Coffee Cups

We’re pleased to announce NEW reusable coffee cups will be provided at the drink station starting January 2020. Simply fill your cup, enjoy your drink, and return it to the bin. We will do the dishes.

Benefits for our church include:

- Savings of approximately \$2,500 over one year (the cost of disposable cups and lids in 2019)
- Lowering of our environmental impact

Did you know that disposable cups cannot be recycled or composted because of the inner plastic lining? Thank you for helping us to be good stewards of our resources. We welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have and appreciate your support.



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Dec. 22

Joy to the World! Part 4
Far as the Curse Is Found
Luke 1:68-79

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Matthew 2:7-12

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Dec. 29

One service only at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Corey Meyer Preaching



The Country Club Singers and Jubilee Ringers made joyful sounds at their annual Christmas Concert on Sun., Dec. 15,

Shopping in The Well

The Well gift and book store is open this morning for your last-minute Christmas shopping. Stop in to pick up gift items for everyone on your list. On Sunday, many items will be on SALE. Purchases benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief around the world.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Pathways to Learning: Caring for Creation in 2020

A series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Sun., Jan. 12, 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m., Social Hall. Led by Kristin Riott, Executive Director, Bridging the Gap. As Christians, what's our role in taking care of God's creation? Get a big-picture view of sustainability efforts in Kansas City, and how you can get involved.

Monday Evening Classes

Short Stories by Jesus: A Closer Look at the Parables Feb. 3 and 10, 7:00 p.m. • Led by Dr. Mike Graves. According to Mark's gospel, Jesus did not speak to his followers "except in parables," which is something of an exaggeration. But not by much since it was clearly his favorite way of teaching. Parables, however, are not simple stories; they are more like puzzling riddles. In this class, we'll look at several parables, trying to figure out their meaning and why Jesus spoke in riddles.

Faithbook

Women exploring scripture and forming friendships. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Rm. 206. Begins Jan., 14/15. No classes weeks of spring break (Mar. 17/18), or Holy Week (Apr. 7/8), and ends week of Apr. 28/29.



Faithpub



Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, this popular men's group meets for beer and conversation on a host of spiritual topics, with a guest speaker each session. Gatherings are at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd., 7:00-8:00 p.m. Wed., Feb. 5: Andy Johnson, Professor of New Testament,

Roots

This 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.

Kansas City Guitar Society Guest Artist Concert

Featuring Brian Torosian. Fri., Feb. 14, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Chapel. General admission is \$20.

Bible and Art Tour of Italy

(May 24-June 3, 2021). New details! Calling lovers of art and Scripture (as well as pasta, wine, and gelato). In spring 2021, we will venture to Rome and Florence for an unforgettable tour of world-class museums, cathedrals, Renaissance architecture, and the Tuscan countryside. Donna Houtteman, a docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum, Rev. Carla Aday and Dr. Mike Graves, will lead this inspirational journey. In addition to guided tours, there will be free days for leisure and day trips. Cost is \$2,700/person, which includes wine and cheese reception upon arrival, lodging in four-star hotels, all breakfasts, guided tours of museums and other sites, ground transportation, and a farewell dinner. (Airfare not included since some may prefer to use miles or book their own flights, although a group flight option is available.) A non-refundable deposit is due Feb. 20. Between now and Jan. 31, we are taking names of church members who wish to go. After that, non-members may sign up. Email Mike Graves (mikeg@cccckc.org) to put your name on the list.

Mission Partnerships

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 or the Sewing Room no later than Sun., Dec. 22.

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.

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

Behind the Scenes

By Chris Wendelbo, Executive Director of Operations



In six months as the church's Executive Director of Operations, I have learned unexpected and encouraging things. As many of you may be aware, I have been a practicing lawyer, business owner, business partner, officer, and General Counsel for businesses for the last 30 years. With that

background, I was excited to take on this role. What I have learned, however, is that providing a safe and inviting space for members, visitors, parents and those in need of counsel, guidance, spiritual assistance or growth is an incredibly complex, but rewarding experience. The services provided to all who seek them are much more important than the simple bottom line; the value freely given to individuals on a daily basis is incalculable and invaluable.

Here's a glimpse of what actually goes on behind the scenes at Country Club Christian Church, day in and day out, to provide a safe and welcoming place to worship God.

1. The church is so much more than a building. It is also a sanctuary from the outside world, a source of comfort and strength, a gathering of very good friends, a welcoming place for strangers, a safe place for children and a place for peace. In short – the church is a community. Many come to the church during the week in search of that community.

2. The “ministry” that the church and the ministers provide is beyond description. Counsel is freely and lovingly given to any who seek it without hesitation. Advice, guidance, assistance, support and love are abundant and free for the asking. It really is the best deal going.

3 The number of moving pieces necessary for the church to operate is immense. It takes a full and dedicated staff, professionals who would be successful in any company.

4. The staff works diligently to advance the goals of the members and Board, maintain the building for future generations, diligently use the gifts of the members, and to continue to provide a place for worship for generations to come.

5. The ministers and staff are working for you because they love what they do, and you include them in your community.

I believe that each minister and member of the staff feels the same. I was incredibly naive about how important a role the church (any church) plays in an increasingly fractious society, and how important it is to protect and grow the church. I am very happy to have the opportunity to be a small part of it.

Our Church Family

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.

Roger James

Jerry and Coe Kindig

Carol Jean Smith

Friends of her daughter, Kelly Hicks, Boeing STL

Jarene Stanford

Jerry and Coe Kindig

Year-End Gifts Support Ministry

As 2019 comes to a close, we invite you to consider making a year-end gift to the church. Because of your generosity all year, children, youth and adults are spiritually nourished, and neighbors near and far are fed, clothed, sheltered, and empowered. Your generosity through a year-end gift can further activate transformation both here in Kansas City and across the world. Even a small gift can make a difference, providing a meal for a hungry neighbor or sponsoring a teen for an overnight lock in. Just \$100 sponsors a month of live streaming, or \$200 sponsors a middle schooler for a mission trip. To make a gift, visit cccckc.org and click Give, or you may contact Finance Director Rachel Clement to set up a credit card payment or arrange for a stock transfer. Please note that the church offices will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26, but will be open Dec. 24, 27, 30-31 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Thank you for making Country Club Christian Church a spiritual home where lives intersect and grace is present.

Youth Ministries



David, Russell, and Olivia Smith work to clean up a community garden with service partners, Urban Farming Guys.

Urban Farming Guys - Service Project

Serve with Urban Farming Guys on Sat., Dec., 28, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at UFG (3700 E 12th St, Kansas City, MO 64127). The project is TBD, but will likely include gardening or helping inside the creator's space at UFG. RSVP to Tyler at tylerh@cccckc.org.

Youth Ice Skating

Join us after church on Sun., Jan. 5, for a wintry afternoon of ice skating with your friends! Meet in the Youth Center after church at noon to carpool to lunch together and for an hour of ice skating at the Crown Center. Return by 2:30 p.m. Bring \$20 to cover lunch and skating. RSVP to tylerh@cccckc.org.

Connect Socials for 7th and 8th Graders

Every third Tuesday. In January, join us for movie night (with dinner) on Tues., Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Location TBD.

Middle School Lock In

Middle schoolers are invited to join us for the January lock-in on Fri., Jan. 24, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a night of fun and games before a big sleepover in the church. Eat dinner before arriving, and bring \$5 to help with snacks and supplies. RSVP to tylerh@cccckc.org.

High School Progressive Dinner and Lock-in

Join us on Sat., Feb. 8! Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool for appetizers at the Aday-Ehman house, an entree at the Ireys house, and a dessert at the McGuire house before returning to the church for games, movie, and a sleepover. RSVP now to Tyler at tylerh@cccckc.org.

Children and Families

Footsteps of Faith — 1st-5th Graders

Advent Workshop Series: Joy to the World
December will focus on the story of the birth of Christ. We will explore how in the season of Advent we prepare for the mystery of Christmas morning.

Worship & Wonder: The Way to Bethlehem

Pre-school and kindergartners will hear the story of the birth of Christ told in a Montessori style presentation. Learning of the holy family, shepherds and wise ones that are a part of the biblical story.

Parent Playdate

Drop in the library on Sun., Jan. 26, at 10:00 a.m. for a time to connect with other parents with infants and toddlers (24 months and younger.) Come enjoy light refreshments as you get to meet others. Babies bring your parents to play!



Omaha Zoo Overnight Trip

Save the date for Mar. 7 -8, 2020! Club Kids (grades 3-5) will go on an overnight trip to the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium (Watch weekly email newsletter for more information).



Christmas Festival



Christmas Festival was a smashing success. On Sat., Dec. 14, families showed up to meet Santa, take family photos, and prepare socks for Micah Ministry. Alex Goering led a group of carolers in spreading joy through music. Thank you to all those who helped make this afternoon a success. Christmas Festival family photo ornaments are ready and can be picked by the bulletin board across from The Well.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves
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

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Jason Ashley
Director of Operations

April Booth
Director of Children's Ministries

Rachel Clement
Director of Finance

Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology

Anne Haraughty
Ministries Coordinator

Barbara George
Director of Membership Development

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

Sara Goering
Co-Director of Music

Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

Dr. Paul Tucker
Co-Director of Music

Chris Wendelbo
Executive Director of Operations

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

816-333-4917

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

SAVE THE DATES



Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service.

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.

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.

Pathways to Learning: Caring for Creation in 2020

Sun., Jan. 12, 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m., Social Hall

Omaha Zoo Overnight Trip

Mar. 7 -8, 2020

Club Kids (grades 3-5) will go on an overnight trip to the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 13, 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Centennial Kick-Off Sunday

Oct. 4, 2020

One service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

