



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister **A Call to Serve**



Rev. Carla Aday

One of the best things about marriage is that you may inherit a fabulous second family. When I first met my husband's entire family 30 years

ago, I met all the nieces and nephews, including Jered, the oldest. He was a sweet and good kid but not a very motivated high school student. Money was tight so he entered junior college and joined ROTC. He then earned an ROTC scholarship to study at Wheaton College. When he married they agreed that after four years he would complete his military career. But he kept re-upping and they agreed as a couple to follow this call to serve country for 20 years. They lived in Germany, Italy, New York, Alabama, Kansas, North Carolina and more. And he deployed to Bosnia, Haiti, Afghanistan and more. But the plan was to stop moving by the time their two boys were in high school. So much for plans.

On Monday we attended Col. Jered Helwig's promotion ceremony to General at Fort Lee in Virginia. He has become one of 113 one star Generals and one of the country's youngest Generals. Tears of joy flowed all day long. His first college professor

## 2020 Celebration Dinner and Auction



Save the date for the 2020 Celebration Dinner and Auction on Fri., Mar. 13 from 6:30 -10:00 p.m. at new location, 2016 Main Event Space.

You can purchase your tickets or benefactor packages online [www.cccckc.org/2020-dinner-auction](http://www.cccckc.org/2020-dinner-auction). Or stop by the Parlor on Sundays, Feb. 16, 23, Mar. 1 or 8.

Do you have an item you'd like to donate? We are looking for fun and unique items, such as vacation homes, tickets to sporting events or concerts, gift certificates, jewelry, artwork and more! Submit your auction items by using the form online at <https://www.cccckc.org/2020-dinner-auction/>.

## 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.

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## From the Senior Minister

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at Wheaton was there. All the aunts and uncles, siblings, many cousins and dozens of other family members gathered to witness him take the oath of office pledging to defend and protect the constitution of this gifted treasure, our homeland. His humility, dignity, honor, commitment, wisdom, intellect and service inspired us all. And hundreds of his colleagues in the military service were there to hear the cannon fire 11 times in tribute to his service.

If this sounds like bragging, I suppose I'm guilty of that. But more than that, I share the tale to remind us all that sometimes we back into greatness. Sometimes by being true to ourselves and listening to the wisdom of those mentors who guide us along the way, we discover that there is a claim and call on our lives to serve the greater good. And I also share the path of this exemplary leader to remind us that though our news often bombards us with stories of those who have failed the public good, that we also have millions of examples of those who nobly serve and lift us all up to become stronger and better people. I offer a prayer of gratitude for all who offer their lives in public service and for the ways God uses ordinary lives for to make this world a better place.

*Carla*

## Reception for Dr. Matthew Thompson

Welcome our new Director of Music, Dr. Matthew Thompson, at a reception in the Parlor at noon on Sun., Feb. 2. Matt joined the staff January 1.



## Celebrating Our Centennial

Starting in fall 2020, Country Club Christian Church will begin a year-long celebration of 100 years of ministry in Kansas City. Mark your calendar for these Centennial events, and watch for more information about other celebrations throughout the year.

### Centennial Kick-Off Sunday

October 4, 2020

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

### Centennial Lecture Series

November 8, 2020

Anna Carter Florence, Columbia Theological Seminary.

### Centennial Thanksgiving Dinner

November 19, 2020

Featuring Eldar, jazz pianist.

### Building Community: Book by Book

Spring 2021 small group book discussions followed by author event. In partnership with Temple B'nai Jehudah.

### Centennial Lecture Series

March 7, 2021

James K. A. Smith, Calvin Theological Seminary.

### Kick-Off for the Next 100 Years

Sunday, April 18, 2021

## Neighborhood Communion Small Groups Forming

Sign up is open now for new winter/spring Neighborhood Communion Small Groups, which will meet between February and April.

Neighborhood Communion Small Groups are a fellowship concept designed around the idea of communion and community—gathering with others in a casual setting to share fellowship, food and guided discussions developed by Dr. Mike Graves. These gatherings are an opportunity for people to connect and relate in authentic ways. Last fall, 10 new groups began meeting, with 102 people participating.

We are also seeking group leaders who would be willing to host gatherings in their homes. If you'd like to lead a group, or if you'd like to sign up as a participant, contact Barbara George at 816-381-9251.





## reflections

### One Plate at a Time

By Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships



The people came in short waves over the course of about an hour and a half. Some would come up and say, “No lettuce, please,” or “I would love extra beans today,” and we happily obliged. A few folks requested a smaller portion of the taco salad being served that day; more folks came back for seconds, thirds, and even fourths because taco salad day has become a famous day around Cross-Lines

Community Kitchen. At the end of the lunch, nearly 150 people were served on a Monday. The people who came by were construction workers, contract workers, teachers, and the occasional person struggling with being homeless in Kansas City. Each one of them hungry, looking for a lunch-time meal, and luckily knew that Cross-Lines Community Outreach was there every day to serve, to feed, to be a good neighbor.

A group of our staff spent the afternoon at Cross-Lines this week. You may know that one Tuesday a month our church has sponsored “Taco Tuesday” at the Cross-Lines Community Kitchen. We have a wonderful team of dedicated church members who pre-cook the taco meat every month and then join together to serve the community endless plates of delicious lunch. The director of the kitchen contacted us this year saying they had a few open dates, and our staff jumped at the opportunity to come and serve. If you have participated in any service opportunity in the city or around the world, however, you know



Country Club Christian Church staff join Carol and Ed Pasley for a service project at Cross-Lines Community Outreach’s community kitchen, this week.

that when you show up to serve others, it’s truly you that is changed by the experience at the end.

Mid-way through our lunch service to the community, Ed Pasley looked over at Chris Wendel-

bo and me and said with a smile, “You know, for me, this is church.” To be present in the world with people that our society sometimes overlooks, that the system ignores, is truly our call as people in the Church who want to embody the Love and Grace of God in the world. We couldn’t agree more, that so much about the act of serving is a big part of what it means to be church. To be with our mission partners changing the world one lunch plate at a time, it also reminds me how important it is that we truly take hunger seriously. That a simple plate of taco salad can do something to change the world, as small as it might be. 🍷



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

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

#### Jan. 19

Turning Points, Part 3

Come and See

John 1:35-42

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### Jan. 26

Turning Points Part 4

Psalms 27

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### Feb. 2

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching



### January Sermon Series

A new year is always a time for new beginnings, whether it’s a new exercise regimen or healthy diet. The church also celebrates new beginnings in a season called Epiphany. It’s a time for remembering when Jesus began his ministry, but also a time for us to reflect on new beginnings in our day. Join us this January as we journey together with God into the new year.

## Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

### 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.



faith  
book

### 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. The first gathering this year is on a Wed., Feb. 5 (rather than the standard Thursday gathering): 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](mailto: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). 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](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org)) to put your name on the list.

## Mission Partnerships

### Collection Connection

For January, our Collection Connection is gathering paper towels and toilet paper for our mission partners' shelters. Please place donations in the basket in the Parlor or in Corey Meyer's office.

### Micah Ministry

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., Feb. 10. 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.

## Service Learning Trips

### 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)

### Ecuador Mission Trip Blog

A mission team will travel to Ecuador January 17 – 24 working in partnership with FEDICE, an organization working to empower indigenous and marginalized communities. Members of the team will be writing about their experiences and sharing photos at the mission trip blog. Follow along at [cccckc.org/serve/serve-the-world/2019-puerto-rico-mission-trip-blog/](http://cccckc.org/serve/serve-the-world/2019-puerto-rico-mission-trip-blog/).



## *a message from staff*

### Discover Our Library

By Anne Haraughty, Ministries Coordinator



**D**id you know that libraries in the United States can be traced back to the 1600s? Libraries are instrumental in developing literacy, fostering education, enriching communities, and improving the general economics of their neighborhoods.

In the Kansas City area, we have access to numerous high-quality public libraries. However, there may be one library that you haven't visited recently or at all. That's the Applebee Memorial Library at County Club Christian Church, right next door to Carla Aday's office. The church's library showcases thousands of books, comfortable seating, beautiful wood work and large windows which add natural light. There is a room devoted to adult topics, including historical religious studies, Biblical commentaries, and daily spiritual guidance, and another room with teen and children's books. If you don't know where to start, check-out the "recent sermon topics" section or the "new books" section.

But, the library is not just for reading. There are many other ways our library is utilized. It's a great place for quiet prayer and reflection. The comfortable seating makes for a perfect meet-up spot to visit with a friend. The table is useful for small receptions and meetings.

Hope you'll drop by and check-out some books soon. 🕯



## Our Church Family

### *In Sympathy*

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

**Darlene Boswell Hill**

**Barbara Burger**

**Peggy Curts**

**Gloria Findley-Grogger**

### *Gifts in Honor of:*

**Cindy and Randy Irey**

John and Charlotte Hall

**Rev. Joe Walker**

Sheila and Denslow Bolte

### *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.

**Faeza Alhindawi**

Greg and Christa Dunn

**Paul Faucher**

Carty and Peggy Johannsen

Jane Marty

**Melinda Grable**

Dunlap Vanice

**Carol Nichols**

Carty and Peggy Johannsen

## Youth Ministries

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 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.

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Sun., Feb. 2, our youth will be raising money for the Virginia Reed Food Drive as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national effort that empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the big game to help those in need.

### Harvesters Souperbowl Service Project

Feb. 2, Noon - 3:00 p.m. After worship, join the Family Service Event, with lunch at noon, followed by serving at Harvesters Community Food Network from 1:00-3:00 P.M. Must be 8 years and older to serve. Space is limited. RSVP to Aprilb@cccckc.org. No evening programming.

### 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 Irely house, and a dessert at the McGuire house before returning to the church for games, movie, and a sleepover. RSVP to Tyler at tylerh@cccckc.org.

### Summer Service Learning Trips

High Schoolers will travel to Fort Worth on June 7-13. Middle Schoolers will travel to Oklahoma City on June 21-23. Email Tyler at tylerh@cccckc.org for more information or visit [cccckc.org/connect/youth-ministry/](http://cccckc.org/connect/youth-ministry/).

#### Want to volunteer with Youth Ministries?

Contact Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth, at tylerh@cccckc.org.

#### Sunday School for 6th-12th Graders

meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 205.

## Children and Families

### Club Kids (3rd-5th graders)

Meet your friends for fun activities and games, building friendships and connections with the church. Sundays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Parents' Night Out

Fri., Jan. 31, youth will provide a Parents' Night Out for children 3rd grade and under. Snacks provided, please serve your child dinner at home. 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. Proceeds support children and youth service-learning experiences. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

### Parent Playdate

Drop in the library on Sun., Feb. 2, 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!

### Save the Date: Children's Musical

Join the Children's Choir for a special musical performance on Sun., Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m., Social Hall. Children grades K-5 are invited to participate in the musical performance.

### 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).





## Youth Ice Skating Outing



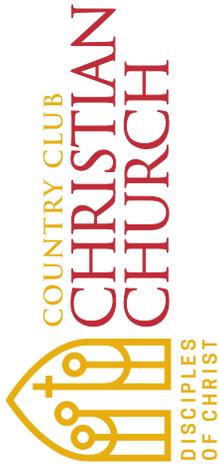
On Sun., Jan. 5, youth enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating and fellowship at Crown Center.

## Children's Sunday School



During the month of January, 1st - 5th graders are focusing on The Wise Ones Show Us the Way. First graders learned about the season of Epiphany and decorated cupcakes to enjoy!

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Lisa McCleish  
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## SAVE THE DATES



### Souper Bowl of Caring

Sun., Feb. 2

### Children's Musical

Sun., Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m., Social Hall

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Mar. 7 -8, 2020

Club Kids (grades 3-5) will go on an overnight trip  
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### 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!

