



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister Love



Rev. Carla Aday

The world no longer trusts Christians who 'love Jesus' but do not seem to love anything else," writes Richard Rohr, in his latest book, *The Universal Christ*.

Valentine's Day is a good day to reflect on what we love, who we love, how we love. My earliest memory of Valentine's Day is the small heart-shaped box of chocolates my father gave to me every year. Not a man who was lavish in gift giving, a year never passed without him giving my sister and me the small heart-shaped boxes of Russell Stover candies and my mom the very large heart-shaped box. As a child, it was not so much the candy as it was the box, and having one all my own, that spoke volumes.

As an adult, relationships of love become more complicated and challenging. Betrayal, heartbreak, disappointment and loneliness become companions on the adult journey. I John says "those who do not love each other, do not love God." I Corinthians says "Love is patient and kind." But lovers can be terribly impatient and unkind. And loving God in the abstract seems easier than loving the flawed humans with whom we share our daily lives.

Richard Rohr writes "If it helps

## Ash Wednesday is February 26

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, which ends on Easter Sunday. The 40 days of Lent are a time of pondering our mortality and of remembering our reliance upon God. In many ways, the season corresponds to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness and Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness, both a journey of sorts. The first service of Lent invites us into this journey with a traditional imposition of ashes to symbolize the fragile nature of our lives. We invite you to join us. Wed., Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



## Celebration Dinner is March 13

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. 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/>.

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## From the Senior Minister

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you to love and to hope, then it is the true religion of Christ.” I believe that the love my father and mother poured into my sister and me, enabled us to become people who dare to believe that God is love. And I believe that church, at its best, empowers us not just to love God, but to love one another. Our lives of faith and our lives shared with family and friends, are inextricably linked. We love, because God first loved us. 🙏

Grace and peace,

*Carla*

## Choices Matter

In January, Pathways to Learning speaker Kristin Riott, executive director of Bridging the Gap, shared an informative and thought provoking presentation on the environmental health of Kansas City. Riott touched on many areas where individuals and the community can have a positive influence. Here are some facts to consider:



**What you eat and buy matters.** Considering the effect of our food choice in terms of water usage, raw materials and transportation provides an opportunity to make a difference. Kansas City has consistently been voted number one in water quality, so your investment in a refillable bottle is not only good for the earth but also your wallet. Every day 37,000 trucks are on the road hauling bottled water. And, eating smaller and lower on the food chain is always better – the larger the animal as a food source, the more land, feed, water and resources consumed to produce a meal.

**What you plant matters.** Pollinators such as bees are in trouble and you can help by planting native plants. Avoid patented cultivars as they do not support native bees and butterflies. The monarch butterfly population has dropped by 95 percent. Planting milkweed provides the critical host plant for the monarch caterpillars. Remember to plant in mass and prune in June. The church’s sustainability team will be selling native plants this spring.

**Our trees matter.** Kansas City is one of the worst heat islands in the nation due in large part to our lack of tree canopy. Currently we are at approximately 20 percent tree canopy coverage with the minimum goal of 40 percent. Studies predict that we will soon have over 33 days with temperatures of above 100 degrees. One key solution is trees. Neighborhoods with dense tree canopies have less respiratory distress, lower crime rates, and streets that last longer. A tree shading the southwest corner of your home can lower your air conditioning bill by 25-65 percent

**You matter.** Your voice, your choices, and your time make a difference. For more information see <https://bridgingthegap.org/> and watch for ways to be involved with Green Team sustainability efforts.

## Leadership Nominations Underway

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2020-2021 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. Nomination forms are available in the parlor today or online at <http://www.cccckc.org/leadership-nominations/>. Deadline is Mar. 31.

## Guest Gathering

If you are a guest at Country Club Christian Church, we are happy to welcome you! 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 Mar. 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Get to know us in a casual setting as a member of our clergy guides you through our values, traditions, and beliefs. Discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251.

## Memorial Flowers

Remember a loved one or honor a friend with a donation for our beautiful chancel flower arrangements on Sunday. Your \$30 donation helps provide one of the two fresh flower arrangements. Your loved one or honoree is named in The Journey Ahead for that week. You are welcome to take one of the arrangements after our 11:00 a.m. service or leave them for our flower ministry to use for hospital visits. To schedule a donation call our office 816-333-4917 or [carlar@cccckc.org](mailto:carlar@cccckc.org).



## The Power of the Printed Page

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence



One of my good friends finished off 2019 by reading his 52nd title of the year. Unless a person's diet of reading is limited to Dr. Seuss or Daniel Tiger, a book per week is impressive. Of course, my friend is a professor, so reading is part of his work. Personally, I have never kept count of my reading habits. Of late, in addition to theological titles, some of my favorites include the memoir *Educated* by Tara Westover, a book that shook me to the core; as well as Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Testaments*, her sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. Reading Westover's memoir and Atwood's novel back-to-back, the similarities were unnerving. These books have blown me away, left me speechless. Ok, maybe not speechless, because my wife has listened to me go on and on after finishing each of them.

Although it's been several years now since I first read it, one of my favorite books is *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi. In some ways it is a book about books and the role they can play in our lives, personally but also on a societal level. *Lolita*, for those who don't know, is a novel by Vladimir Nabokov, the somewhat scandalous tale of an older man who has illicit relations with a younger girl. It is not so much about sex as power, which is often the case, as the "Me Too" movement has demonstrated. The antagonist in the novel owns Lolita. Nafisi's work is more of a commentary on reading itself, especially in oppressive times. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is Nafisi's memoir of teaching western literature at two different universities in Iran, all of this during the fundamentalist Islamic regime change when the authorities tried to own the people, especially women. The powers did not look favorably on Nafisi teaching western literature to women. What might happen if these women thought for themselves?

What all these books have in common is the empowerment of women, which is a subtheme in the Gospels as well. We know some of them by name, the sisters Mary and Martha, for example, who were friends with Jesus and had him over for dinner, as well as the lesser-known Chloe, who hand-delivered Paul's letter to the Romans. These are amazing stories. But so many others remain nameless (the woman at the well, the woman with a hemorrhage). Nameless or otherwise, the stories in the Gospels as well as more recent titles remind us that women's stories matter a great deal. And for that we should be grateful. 🍷



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

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

#### Feb. 16

Significant Others, Part 2:

Bound to the Soul

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### Feb. 23

Significant Others, Part 2:

Relationship with Strangers

Deuteronomy 10:1-4, 12-13, 19

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### Feb. 26 -- Ash Wednesday



#### A Relationship Sermon Series

Relationships can be challenging and confusing but also exhilarating and magnificent. On every page of the Bible, we read about God's presence shaping human relationships. Come explore how our spiritual lives and relationships – with God, with ourselves, with our family and friends, and with strangers – are inextricably linked. Continues through Feb. 23.



## Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

### FaithBistro

For women of all ages, with guest speakers on spirituality and real-life issues. Connect with other women looking for conversations that matter. Blue Moose, 4160 W 71st St., Prairie Village, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Feb. 20 speaker is Molly Marshall, President, Central Baptist Seminary.



### Faith and Grief Lunch.

Join us Tues., Mar. 3 at Village Presbyterian Church at noon for our Faith and Grief Lunch. We begin with prayer, then a guest speaker shares her/his experience of loss, grief, and healing, followed by lunch and sharing and remembering in informal table conversations. All are welcome. The complimentary lunch is provided by the sponsoring churches; a free-will offering basket available. Pre-registration is helpful but not required, at (469) 251-9612 or [www.faithandgrief.org](http://www.faithandgrief.org). More details at <https://www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC/>. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS.

### 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. Meets Thurs., Mar. 5, featuring Dave Ehman, Licensed Psychologist.



### Pathways to Learning

A series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

#### Making Sense of the Cross

Mar. 15, 22 • Led by Dr. Mike Graves  
The cross is one of the most central icons in Christianity, adorning churches everywhere. But what does it mean? What was accomplished on the cross with the death of Jesus? Together, we will explore these questions as well as what scholars call models of atonement, how we are made right with God. (Note: This is a repeat of a Monday night class from last fall.)

### Monday Evening Class

Feb. 24 and Mar. 2. Self-Observation as an Aid to Spiritual Growth: More Than Navel Gazing, Led by Dr. George Gordon, Emeritus Minister of Congregational Care, Country Club Christian Church. Self-Observation is a process that aids us in detecting our deeper motivations for our actions, a prelude to serving others. Service without awareness frequently results in as much damage as good. In the spirit of Jesus who both retreated and acted, we will think about what that means for our lives.

### Bible and Art Tour of Italy

May 24-June 3, 2021. Join this tour of Rome and Florence including world-class museums, cathedrals, architecture, and the Tuscan countryside. Donna Houtteman, a docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum, Rev. Carla Aday and Dr. Mike Graves, trip leaders. In addition to guided tours, there will be free days for leisure and day trips. Cost is \$2,700/person. Includes arrival reception, four-star lodging, breakfasts, guided tours, ground transportation, and farewell dinner. (Airfare not included; group flight option available.) Non-refundable deposit is due Feb. 20. Individuals who are not church members may register as well. Email Mike Graves ([mikeg@cccckc.org](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org)) to put your name on the list.

## Mission Partnerships

### Collection Connection

The February Collection Connection is feminine hygiene products for "Love Bags" for the women at Sheffield Place who have experienced homelessness and addiction. Bags will be given to women as they make the journey to a new stage in life.

### Micah Ministry

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

### Service Learning Trip

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! Cost TBD (approx. \$1,000).



## *a message from staff*

### A Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place

By Matthew Thompson, Director of Music



I have always loved going to church! I know it may seem odd to most but for some reason, church, especially worship and music called out to me from a young age. I was around 12 years old when I began playing the organ and accompanying choirs on Sunday. It was magical. It still is.

There is something truly beautiful and remarkable about music in general but especially at church. It binds us together. It brings us in close. It nourishes our aching hearts and soothes our souls.

Though I have only had a short time here I just want to take the opportunity to highlight a few musical moments that have recently left me spirit-filled on Sunday. Alex and Sara Goering's offertory solos at the beginning of January immediately come to mind. I couldn't help but feel happy inside as I listened to them sing. I enjoyed accompanying the Chancel Choir's beautiful and inspired singing of "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" and "Here I Am, Lord". I've also been moved by Paul Tucker's improvisations at the piano. The list goes on and on. Between vocal and instrumental soloists, 9:01 song leaders, 9:01 Trio, Orffestra, Jubilee Ringers, Country Club Singers, and Chancel Choir, we have so many incredible people offering their time and talents to minister through music to our church. A heartfelt thank you to all who take part in this ministry! We are blessed by your service and by your beautiful music!

The lyrics of a notable twentieth-century gospel spiritual came to mind as I thought of what I have witnessed and felt in worship this past month:

"There's a sweet sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord ... Without a doubt, we know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place."

Even in small ways each of us can partake of the spirit music brings. We can hum the tune of a favorite hymn or song that brings us peace. We can listen to an inspired musical performance and appreciate how the music moves us. We can stand and sing hymns with full heart and voice (it's not about having the perfect one either) and feel connected with others as we do. We can sing at home with those we love. It's the intention that we bring to our musical experiences that in the end makes all the difference.

I am humbled by the call to minister to each of you and excited to join with you in sharing our gifts and talents that the spirit might be felt by all in this place. 🕊

## Our Church Family

### *In Sympathy*

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

**Ina Logan**  
**David Windsor**

## 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

Oct. 4, 2020 – One service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception.

### Centennial Lecture Series

Nov. 8, 2020 – Anna Carter Florence, Columbia Theological Seminary.

### Centennial Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 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  
One worship service only followed by festival featuring live music.

## Youth Ministries



### tubing at Snow Creek

Club Kids and Youth will gather on Sun., Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. (after Sunday School) for lunch, depart by 12:30 p.m. and return to the church by 4:30 p.m. \$30 per person. RSVP to April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org). All participants need to fill out a permission form.

### Girls' Small Group

Middle school girls are invited to a lunch and small group hour every last Sunday during the school year. Aislinn Sullivan and other high schoolers will lead activities and discussion in the Youth Center from noon to 1:30 p.m. The next girls' small group is Sun., Feb. 23. RSVP now to Tyler at [tylerh@cccckc.org](mailto:tylerh@cccckc.org).

### Connect Social for 7th & 8th Graders

Youth in 7th and 8th grade are invited to special get togethers every third Tuesday. March's gathering will be a movie night at the AMC 14 on Ward Parkway on Mar., 23 (the fourth, not third, Tuesday, with Spring Break). Movie and exact details TBA. For more information and to RSVP, contact Tyler at [tylerh@cccckc.org](mailto:tylerh@cccckc.org).

### Summer Service Learning Trips

Youth are invited to join us in one of our summer service-learning trips!

- High School: Fort Worth, TX, June 7-13  
Total cost is \$450; \$100 deposit and registration due by May 3.
- Middle School: Oklahoma City, OK, June 21-24:  
Total cost is \$200; \$75 deposit and registration due by May 17.

Contact Tyler for more information or registration. Curious about how to give in support of the trips? Look for us in the Parlor on Sunday mornings from March 22 to May 3.

## Children and Families

### Children's Musical is March 1

Children's Choir presents Amazing Acts, selections from Bible Truths and Fun Songs by Dave Clark and Anna Lampe at 10:00 a.m. on Mar. 1, in the Social Hall. These wacky, silly, yet biblically true story songs come to life on stage as we tell how God used Noah, David, Daniel, and several other ordinary people to do extraordinary miracles. These biblical truths through song reinforce that believing in God and being obedient to God's calling can not only change and individual but can also change the world. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9:45 a.m. on the 2nd floor.



### Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt

Save the date for our annual Easter egg hunt, Sun., Mar. 29. Starts at noon, lunch, egg hunt, petting zoo and other fun activities for children. Please invite your neighbors and friends.

### 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.





## Youth Group Progressive Dinner



One of the best things we do as church is share food at the table. Sometimes three tables in one night. Thankful to our hosts for each part of the high school progressive dinner party tonight before our lock-in!

## Souper Bowl of Caring



The Chiefs victory wasn't the only thing worth celebrating Super Bowl Sunday 2020! For the annual Souper Bowl of Caring, youth raised \$1000 to donate to local hunger relief organizations and joined in with other children and families to serve at Harvester's after church.

Non-Profit Organization  
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Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

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## SAVE THE DATES



### Ash Wednesday

Wed., Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### Children's Musical

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

### Celebration Dinner and Auction

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

### Spring Fling

Sun., Mar. 29, noon- 2:00 p.m. Lunch, Activities  
and Egg Hunt on the Lawn

### Palm Sunday Worship

April 5, join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m.  
service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of  
our Pastors' Class participants.

### Maunder Thursday

April 9, 7:00 p.m. – In remembrance of Jesus'  
last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read  
scripture and celebrate communion. Rev. Tyler  
Heston preaching.

### Good Friday

April 10, 12:15 p.m. (prelude at noon)

### Easter

Sun., Apr. 12 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.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!

