



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Feb. 28, 2020 | Vol. 94 No. 5

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister **Forty Days**



Rev. Carla Aday

I have no problem giving up alcohol for the 40 days of Lent” my friend told me. “But if I try to say no to a glass of wine other times of the year,

it seems impossible. I don’t know why that is.” This conversation with my friend got me to thinking about Lent’s power. Why is it that 40 days marked off on a calendar 1,700 years ago would impact our behavior today? Do we Protestants have anything to gain from the traditionally Catholic practice of Lent?

Lent was originally a season of spiritual preparation for becoming Christian. In the second century of Christianity it may have lasted only two or three days. But by 325 it had stretched to 40 days and was practiced by those preparing to become baptized. The word means “lengthen” and coincides with the lengthening of days as spring arrives.

Giving up chocolate or taking on a practice of prayer during these 40 days is not just about self-improvement. It is about making a lengthier space inside or ourselves for the divine presence of God to dwell. Sure you could set aside any 40 days of the year for this, make up your own Lent. But it wouldn’t be the same.

Lent is a communal practice. We



Lenten Sermon Series

Often we seek to find God but what if it is God who is seeking us? During the six Sundays of Lent we will look at the ways God knocks on the doorways of our lives and summons us to live in new ways. Based on a hymn of the same title, this series will empower us to hear Jesus’ invitation to a challenging and joy-filled abundant life.

Celebration Dinner and Auction

There’s still time to purchase tickets or benefactor packages, or to donate an auction item, for this year’s Celebration Dinner and Auction on Mar. 13 at the 2016 Main Event Space. More details about the event at cccckc.org/2020-dinner-auction, where you can also purchase tickets electronically. Or stop by the Parlor this Sunday or Mar. 8 for information about the event and the auction items available.

IN THIS ISSUE

Holy Week.....	page 2
In Awe of the Rugged by Catherine Stark-Corn.....	page 3
Learning from Aporia by Paul Cutelli	page 5

continued on page 2

From the Senior Minister

continued from page 1

know that these days of prayer and fasting are practiced by Christians around the world. And so we enter a shared reality with millions of brothers and sisters in the faith. To cheat is not to cheat only our own rule but to turn away from the whole group. And Lent focuses on a purpose. It is not just to get skinny or healthy or smarter. It is to name our emptiness in relation to the one who is pure wholeness. Frederick Buechner says that the purpose of Lent is to express our need for Lent. That is to say that we need God. We need purpose and meaning to our lives. And there is this one who gave his whole life that we might know that meaning and purpose. So the chocolate and the wine; the fasting and the prayer are aimed at a purpose. They matter, because our relationship with God matters.

Lent allows us to name that we live inside of an unspeakable mystery: the love of God. Here are 40 days for us to ask how we will live in response to that unconditional love. 🍷

Grace and peace,

Carla

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.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship

Children are invited to join the Palm Parade April 5 at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants. Rev. Carla Aday preaching.

Maundy 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) Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar. Dr. Mike Graves preaching.

Easter Sunday

April 12, Special Service Times – 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Rev. Carla Aday preaching. 8:00 a.m. service in the Combs Chapel featuring instrumentalists and soloist Alex Goering. 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services in the Sanctuary featuring the Kansas City Brass, Chancel Choir, and soloist Alex Goering. Child care available for all services. Sunday school classes will not meet.

Complimentary Easter Breakfast

8:30-9:30 a.m. Complimentary Hot Breakfast, Social Hall. Bacon/sausage and eggs, fruit, yogurt bar, and more.

Memorial Easter Lilies

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily to be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Deadline for orders is Mar. 29. Order forms in the parlor today. Return the form with payment of \$25 to Carla Rauth. Questions? Contact Carla at 816-381-9241 or carlar@cccckc.org.



Spring Fling Egg Hunt

The annual Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt is on Sun., Mar. 29 at noon. This event for the whole family will have a petting zoo, children's activities, the Easter Bunny and lots of fun! Lunch

Quarterly Financial Report

Country Club Christian Church Jul - Dec 19	Current Year Actuals Jul - Dec 19	Current Year Budget Jul - Dec 19	Prior Year Actuals Jul - Dec 18	Year to Date Budget Variance
Income				
Contributions	771,898.33	624,645.02	864,783.91	147,253.31
Building and Event Fees	534,446.66	496,252.92	433,945.39	38,193.74
Endowment (Designated and Non-Designated)	81,546.07	204,643.02	180,945.66	-123,096.95
Total Income	1,387,891.06	1,325,540.96	1,479,674.96	62,350.10
Expense				
Total Personnel Expense	576,485.58	645,377.04	617,288.54	-68,891.46
Total Programs, Facility, Admin. Expense	829,745.76	738,069.74	766,744.31	91,676.02
Total Mission and Outreach Expense	122,866.15	158,074.92	108,969.63	-35,208.77
Total Expense	1,529,097.49	1,541,521.70	1,493,002.48	-12,424.21
Net Income	-141,206.43	-215,980.74	-13,327.52	74,774.31



In Awe of the Rugged

By Catherine Stark-Corn, Minister to Families and Children




One of my most cherished memories is of the church’s family mission trips to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The drive could be a bit long, especially with younger ones who were tired of car games, toys, sitting, being told to enjoy the scenery and who had grown suspect of the promises that we are almost there.

Yet when we made our way to the rugged land of the reservation we were transported. The landscape was stunning as it stretched out before us, scenes we rarely see in the Midwest. This Lakota reservation was mainly land – a few small communities could be seen from the roads, but mostly you could just see the raw natural beauty that changed as the sunlight created new vistas.

In his book *Small Graces: The Quiet Gifts of Everyday Life*, Kent Newburn quotes a Sioux writer, Ohiyesa saying, “Whenever in the course of our day, we might come upon a scene that is strikingly beautiful or sublime – the black thundercloud with the rainbow’s glowing arch above the mountain; a white waterfall in the heart of a green gorge; a vast prairie tinged with the blood-red of sunset – we pause for an instant in an attitude of worship.” Many of the scenes we encountered on those treks in South Dakota brought a reverence and awe of God’s good creation.

As we observe Ash Wednesday we are called to acknowledge, before God and one another, our mortality, our finitude and our moral failings. I connect the words often shared on the day that begins the season of Lent – ashes to ashes, dust to dust – to my experience of the rugged earth on the family trips. We learned from observation and experience the unity the Lakota Indians had with the earth. There was a oneness, a clear understanding that we are from and will be returned to the earth and one of our tasks in this world is to care for the earth that gives and sustains life.

In the season of Lent, reflecting on our moral shortcomings can provide a time of personal and communal growth. We have fallen short of reverently caring for God’s creation. During this season of Lent I feel called to seek to renew my sense of awe at this amazing natural world. With intentionality I will look anew as the earth awakens to spring, I will pause with an attitude of worship of God’s good creation and I will seek to find ways to bring healing to this broken earth. 



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Mar. 1

Love Knocks and Waits for Us to Hear, Part 1

Revelation 3:15-20

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Mar. 8

Love Knocks and Waits for Us to Hear, Part 2

Matthew 7:7-14

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

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.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

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 experience of loss, grief, and healing, followed by lunch and sharing and remembering in informal table conversations. Pre-registration is helpful but not required, at (469) 251-9612 or 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.)

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. Mar. 26: Donna Houtteman, docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art



Monday Evening Class

Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m., Social Hall. 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.

Mission Partnerships

Collection Connection

We need 2,000 filled plastic Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Mar. 29. Pick up eggs in the parlor and return them filled with small stickers, toys, coins or nut-free pre-packaged candy.

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).



Our recent service/learning trip with FEDICE in Otavalo, Ecuador after spending the weekend at cultural sites and ready to start the "MINGA," working together with the people of Otavalo.



a message from staff

Learning from Aporia

By Paul Cutelli, Director of Technology



I love a great, deep question: How do we know what we know? Are duty, consequences, or virtues the proper motivation behind our ethical decisions? How can all things be relative if the statement itself is universally true? Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Okay, I suppose that last one was more of a joke, but all these statements have something in common: there is no clean-cut, formulaic “1+1=2” type of answer. The enigma which dwells in these sorts of questions make the mind work overtime; I have failed to adequately find a proper label for it...until now. I recently discovered a term for this uncomfortable lack of answer, popularized by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida: “aporia.”

Aporia, or “ἀπορίᾱ” from the Greek, is defined in philosophy as ‘denoting the state of being perplexed, or at a loss, at such a puzzle or impasse.’ Boy, I can relate to this! If I fail to solve a problem or develop a satisfactory answer to a question (philosophical or otherwise), my mind dwells on it, turning the issue over and over again until something resolves. More often than not, I’m still haunted by a feeling that my answer is incorrect or incomplete.

At first thought, this may be unsettling, but uncertainty is often more the norm than anything else, and when we become more comfortable with it, it can be freeing. As the English logician Bertrand Russell once said: “To teach how to live without certainty and yet without being paralyzed by hesitation is perhaps the chief thing...” Read: don’t let the lack of an answer or fear lacking an answer stop you. Easier said than done!

It is so easy to get confused and worry about the solution to a question that we lose out on the learning we could have merely by asking and investigating the question in the first place.

So, next time you come across a conundrum that lands you in “aporia,” I hope you acknowledge and enjoy the journey, which can often be worth more, and do not fret so much about the destination. 🍷

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.

Howard Hendricks

Doris Thompson

Carol Nichols

Doris Thompson

Carol Jean Smith

Peggy Brinkman

Sharon and Rush Clark

Perry and Jeanne Cockayne, *for Music Ministry*

Chuck and Marilyn Dreas

John and Margery Graves

Jarene Stanford

Doris Thompson

Lillian Witt

Ronald Cross, *for Children’s Ministry*

Centennial Kick-Off Sunday

Oct. 4 – 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

Mar. 7, 2021 – James K. A. Smith, Calvin Theological Seminary.

Kick-Off for the Next 100 Years

Sun., Apr. 18, 2021 – One worship service only followed by festival featuring live music.



Youth Ministries

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.

Zoo Social

Grades 6-12 are invited for a special social at the Kansas City Zoo on Sat., Mar. 28, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We'll meet at the zoo; bring \$20 for a ticket and a picnic lunch. RSVP now to Tyler!

Good Friday Service Opportunity

Youth and Club Kids will serve at the Urban Farming Guys from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m. on Fri., Apr. 10. We will support UFG through gardening and other service projects. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, clothes that can get dirty, and an eager spirit! We will meet in the parking lot after the Good Friday worship service at noon and return by 4:00pm. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Girls' Small Group

Middle school girls are invited to a lunch and small group hour every fourth Sunday during the school year. High schoolers will lead activities and discussion in the Youth Center from noon to 1:00 p.m. The next girls' small group is Sun., Mar. 29.

Summer Service Learning Trips

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

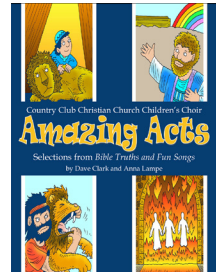
- High School: Fort Worth, TX, June 7-13
Total cost is \$450; \$100 deposit and registration due by May 3.
- Middle School: Oklahoma City, OK, June 21-24:
Total cost is \$200; \$75 deposit and registration due by May 17.

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. We'll 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 an individual but can also change the world.



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.



Omaha Zoo Overnight Trip

Rescheduled for May 30-31, 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).



Club Kids had their annual paper airplane Launch Night with Rev. George Gordon.



February in Photos



Top left: There was a lot of laughter and learning on Feb. 16 with Dr. Delessyn Kennebrew, Greater KC Disciples Regional Minister for New and Transforming Churches . Top right: on Feb. 2 we said goodbye to Brandon Wilkins, who played saxophone during the 9:01 service. Bottom: Club Kids and Youth spent an unseasonably warm winter afternoon at Snow Creek tubing on Feb. 16.

Welcome New Members!



A warm welcome to these new members who joined the church on Sun., Feb. 23 during the 9:01 service. (Left) George and Joselyn Verschelden, William (10), Logan (13), Charlotte (4) , New Member Hosts: Mitch and Erin Feitz. (Right) Isabela Guimaraes. New Member Host: Maggie Goetz

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

Anne Haraughty
Ministries Coordinator

Dr. Mike Graves
Scholar in Residence

Barbara George
Director of Membership
Development

Rev. Tyler Heston
Minister to Youth

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

Rev. Corey Meyer
Director of Mission Partnerships

Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood
Programs

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

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

Jason Ashley
Director of Operations

Dr. Matthew Thompson
Director of Music

April Booth
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Paul Tucker
Co-Director of Music

Rachel Clement
Director of Finance

Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology

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



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.

Maundy 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.

Omaha Zoo Overnight Trip

May 30-31, 2020! Club Kids (grades 3-5) will go
on an overnight trip to the Omaha's Henry
Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

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!

