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March 10, 2023



**In Today's Newsletter...**

- **Church Happenings** - Holy Week and Easter Services; Spring Fling and The Next 100 Groundbreaking; New Members; Native Plant Sale Order Forms available; Save the Date for Dinner and Auction!
- **Mission & Outreach** - International Women's Day Event ad success; Easter Offering Announced; Partnership Day with Jerusalem Farms.
- **Adult Enrichment** - Learn more on April 4 about Holy Land Trip; See premier of "Mission to Ecuador on March 26.
- **ROOTS Young Adults** - Lenten Small Group happening now.
- **Children & Youth** - Children's Pop-Up Choir; Tall Oaks Summer Camps; Middle School Service-Learning Trip.



My office is on the first floor of the church. But up on the third floor in a small corner is a study where I like to hide away to write sermons. I have always loved that room, free of interruptions to think and pray and reflect. But three years ago this week, in what felt like the blink of an eye, that sweet little study became a war room or a foxhole where I had to decide what to do to keep our congregation safe from an encroaching global pandemic that raced its way from the coasts to the middle of our country. Within two hours I decided, while pacing on my cell phone in that little study, that Sunday worship would move immediately to online, that the church's fundraiser auction would be postponed, and that the long-awaited gifts campaign for building renovations would hit pause.

After months of working from home, the church staff and I returned to the church building and worship and in-person events resumed but for reasons that have been unclear to me, I have not been able to sit down in that study again to pray, read, and write. But then last week I read a magazine article about the oral history project in New York. A team of researchers began interviewing ordinary people about their reactions to the pandemic in March of 2020. They interviewed them again in 2021 and 2022. But by 2022, many of the participants refused to come in for the interviews. Some wouldn't even return the phone calls. It was too painful. Too difficult. And that is when it began to dawn on me. My resistance to that room I once loved is grief.

Many of us have said that our lives were relatively unscathed by the pandemic. We didn't lose a loved one or a job. We had the resources to get through and maybe even found some silver linings. But many of us, even those who soldiered through it, lost something significant. And maybe that loss still deserves to be grieved. Maybe without acknowledging our loss and grief, we will miss the opportunity to grow through the pain.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes in her book "God in Pain:"

*There is nothing in that gospel about being impressive or successful. There is nothing in it about being the biggest or the best at anything at all. The good news of God in Christ is that when the bottom has fallen out from under you—when you have crashed through all your safety nets and you can hear the bottom rushing up to meet you—the good news is that you cannot fall farther than God can catch you. . . . God is able to take our weakness, our fear, our trembling, and turn it into fullness of life.*

Grace and Peace,

Carla

To send a message to Carla, click [HERE](#).

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## WORSHIP WITH US

Worship with us in person at 9:01am (sanctuary), 10am (chapel) or 11am (sanctuary)

- Click [HERE](#) to view our live stream.
- Miss last Sunday's worship? Watch it [HERE](#).



### Sunday, March 12, 2023

**Sermon Series "Questions Christians Ask: Why did Jesus Die?"** with Rev. Carla Aday

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### "QUESTIONS CHRISTIANS ASK" VIDEO SERIES

Our Lenten groups have been going over the video series "Questions Christians Ask." We have had such a wonderful time discussing these videos, as they provide thought provoking

insights into some of the most difficult questions of our faith. For those of you that aren't part of a group, or would like to view the videos outside of your group, click [HERE](#) to go to our Youtube playlist with all the videos. New videos are posted every Wednesday in Lent!



### HOLY WEEK

- **Palm Sunday | April 2 at 9:01, 10 and 11am**  
*Children are invited to join the Palm Parade at 9:01 and 11am. Celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants at the 11am service.*
- **Maundy Thursday | April 6 at 7pm**  
*We gather together to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion in remembrance of Jesus' last supper.*
- **Good Friday | April 7 at 12pm**

*Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar, featuring traditional liturgy with no sermon.*

### EASTER SERVICES (Please note the special service times)

**Sunday, April 9 at 9am and 11am**

*Featuring the Kansas City Brass, Chancel Choir, and special vocalists. Enjoy pastries between services in the Parlor*



### EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

Remember a loved one with a lily this Easter.

Your \$30 donation may be made by check or online [HERE](#).

Your lily will be available to take home after the 11am Easter Sunday service.

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## CHURCH HAPPENINGS



**Sara & Kevin Robinson**  
Lauren



**Rick & Ashley Moyer**  
Charlie, Sloan & Beau.

### NEW MEMBERS!

We welcomed new congregation members Sara and Kevin Robinson and their daughter on February 26 and Rick and Ashley Moyer and their children on March 5. Be sure to extend a greeting when you see them on Sundays!



### SPRING FLING AND THE NEXT 100 GROUNDBREAKING

**Sunday, Mar. 26 at 12pm.**

This year's annual Spring Fling will include a special groundbreaking as we begin renovations for the Next 100 Years! Children will enjoy games, crafts and a picnic lunch. Everyone will be invited to grab a hard hat and shovel and say cheese for a photo op! The event will be held on the front lawn, weather permitting.



### DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SPRING FLING!

The annual Spring Fling is right around the corner and we need donations of individually wrapped candy, carnival game prizes and spring-themed individually wrapped snacks like pretzels, goldfish, fruit snacks, etc. In addition, if you can assist the day of the event with set-up, manning game and craft stations, serving a small lunch to children and clean-up, please [email April](#) to get signed up or for more information.



### NATIVE PLANT SALE

Order native plants for spring planting now! Did you know that planting native plants sustain the hundreds of species of pollinators of the lower Midwest, manage stormwater & protects streams, feeds monarch butterflies and helps ensure their awe-inspiring migration and builds healthy soil.

The order form is available [HERE](#) and will be available at church. We must receive your order by **April 7**. Plant order pick-up will be Sunday, April 16.



### OPENINGS LEFT FOR COMMUNITY CAMP!

Christian Community Camp is July 29-Aug. 5, 2023 and we have JUST ONE private room with all bunk spaces left! Join families and individuals from our congregation for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. All generations will stay in a lodge with an amazing mountain view and enjoy home cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don't like to camp but you love the mountains, this is the place for you. Get more details [HERE](#) or [email April](#).



## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE | Sept. 5 - 14, 2023 | Deposit due May 2023



A pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been called "the fifth Gospel," and for many people, it's the trip of a lifetime. This trip starts in Galilee, coming down the Jordan valley, and culminates with some of the most cherished sites in and around Jerusalem. This Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is being led by Dr. Mike Graves and Dr. David May. To see a detailed itinerary

and more information, click [HERE](#). A \$300 deposit is due in May of 2023. Space is limited, so signing up ASAP is encouraged. If interested in participating, [email Dr. Graves](#).

### ORIENTATION ABOUT TRIP TO ISRAEL TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 7 - 8:30pm

Those who are signed up already, as well as those considering it are invited to attend a Zoom Meeting in preparation for the September pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Dr. David May and Dr. Mike Graves will be talking about the trip and answering questions. If you have questions prior to the meeting, you may [email Dr. Graves](#). If you have always wanted to see the Holy Land, join us and learn more about this amazing pilgrimage.

Here is the link for the Zoom Meeting: [bit.ly/CCCC-Israel23](https://bit.ly/CCCC-Israel23)

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Friday, June 2 at 6:30pm**

*Celebration Dinner and Auction*  
**at The Martin Event Space**

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### EMBRACING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

Country Club Christian Church celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday, March 5 with women of ALL ages, from ALL over the metro! We gathered together to connect, share and learn. Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn opened the event with a video about embracing equity. Michah Blair, a church member who helped organize the event, shared about her passion for women coming together. Then Leslie Tenjack led the group in a meditation for peace and wholeness. The event wrapped up with Cori Wallace, Engagement Director for Della Lamb Community Services enlightening the group about Della Lamb and what she has discovered about the meaning of community from her clients and volunteers.



### COLLECTION CONNECTION FOR MARCH

The Metro Mission team is requesting donations of infant and toddler diapers of all sizes and breakfast cereal for the March Collection Connection. These family staples are very popular and food distribution sites have trouble keeping inventory of these items. Bring your donations to church on Sunday morning, or drop them off at church M- F from 9 - 5.



### PARTNERSHIP DAY WITH JERUSALEM FARMS

**Saturday, March 25, 9am - 12pm**

Make plans to help out with our northeast area partner Jerusalem Farm as they prepare their gardens and do small home repairs in the neighborhood.

We will be led by skilled Jerusalem Farm community members in our work.

Please Sign up [HERE!](#)



### EASTER OFFERING 2023 TO BENEFIT WEEK OF COMPASSION

This year, the Grants and Special Offering Team invites you to remember the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria and take part in working towards restoration with our global neighbors.

This unimaginable natural disaster has taken the lives of over 50,000 people and displaced over 1,500,000, many of whom were already refugees. Week of Compassion is our denomination's relief, refugee, and development mission of the Disciples of Christ and works with partners around the world to create

opportunities for churches to give to places where donations have the most impact. For relief work in Turkey and Syria, Week of Compassion guarantees that every dollar donated will go directly to the immediate needs of earthquake victims.

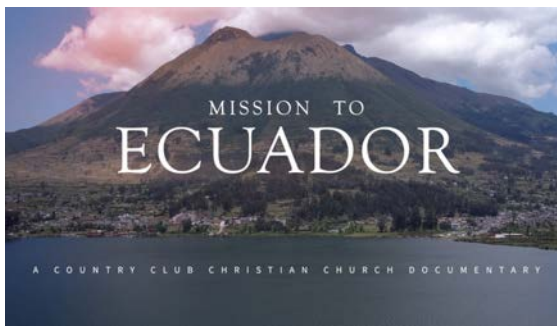
In the coming weeks we will learn more about the work Week of Compassion does on our behalf in places all over the world.

[Donate Your Easter Offering Here](#)

## ADULT ENRICHMENT

### PATHWAYS TO LEARNING | "MISSION TO ECUADOR" DOCUMENTARY PREMIER

Sunday, March 26 at 10am in the Youth Center



Join us as we premier the documentary "Mission to Ecuador". A beautiful story about our October 2022 service-learning trip to Ecuador to partner with a community development organization called FEDICE. Members from this mission trip team will share stories and highlights after the thirty-minute documentary so that you can learn more about our international service opportunities and how to register for a trip this October 2023.



### MONDAY NIGHT CLASSES: JESUS' VISION FOR A FLOURISHING LIFE

**Mondays, now through March 13, 7 - 8pm** in the Youth Center.

It's common for churches during Lent to study the last seven words of Jesus on the cross. But what about the first seven words of his ministry, the essential stories and teachings of Jesus? Jesus didn't just come to die, but to show us how to live. What does a life worth living look like according to the Gospels? Based on a new book by Dr. Graves, participants will look at the essentials of living like Jesus. Led by Rev. Dr. Mike Graves.

**MISS A MONDAY NIGHT CLASS?** These classes will be recorded and posted the following Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on our YouTube channel. Click [HERE](#) to catch the new classes when they are published.

- Check out Week 1 from "Jesus' Vision for a Flourishing Life" [HERE](#)
- Watch Week 2 from "Jesus' Vision for a Flourishing Life" [HERE](#)

Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button to be notified when new content is posted!



**Church Center is coming!!!** This new program will allow you to more fully engage with our church in the digital space and meet our Next 5 strategic goals. Keep an eye out for more information to come!

## YOUNG ADULTS (Ages 20's to 30's)



**ROOTS Lenten Small Group Series** happening Wednesdays at 6:15pm.

If you are in your 20s and 30s, take part in a variety of socials, service projects, and opportunities to study the Bible and our faith. Details at [linktr.ee/ccckcroots](https://linktr.ee/ccckcroots), or [@ccckcroots](https://www.instagram.com/ccckcroots) on Instagram.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### SUNDAY SCHOOL | 10 - 10:45am

- Worship & Wonder: Pre-school - Kindergarten
- Footsteps in Faith: 1st - 5th grade

- Donuts & Discussion: 6th - 12th grade



### CHILDREN'S POP-UP CHOIR

All children in grades K - 5 are invited to participate in the Children's Choir for a special musical performance on Sunday, April 30 during the 11am service. Children do not need to be present at all rehearsals to participate. Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School on the following dates:

- March 26
- April 16
- April 23
- April 30 - Rehearse then sing at the 11am service

### CLUB KIDS (3rd - 5th graders)

Sunday, March 12 and 19 | No Club Kids - Spring Break

Sunday, March 26, 4 - 5:30pm: Pizza in the Park! (Stay tuned for location!)

### SERVICE LEARNING CAMPS, REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!

The service weeks are the same so choose one to attend.

- Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2 | [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Monday, August 7 - Friday, August 11 | [REGISTER HERE](#)

REMINDER! CLUB KIDS TEXTING UPDATES. Stay tuned with all of our activities via text reminders! Sign up [HERE](#).

### TALL OAKS CAMPS 2023

Each year, the Greater Kansas City Region of the Disciples of Christ hosts a variety of opportunities for youth to spend a week out at our regional church camp, Tall Oaks in Linwood, KS. These opportunities invite youth to connect with other Disciples youth from across the metroplex for fun, fellowship, and more. The dates for the 2023 camps are below; find out more and register [HERE](#).

### YOUTH GROUP (Middle & High Schoolers)

SUNDAY NIGHTS (Almost Every) | 4 - 5:30pm

Sunday, March 12 and 19 | No Youth Group - Spring Break

[Contact Tyler](#) for more info!

### YOUTH DONUTS & DISCUSSION

Sundays at 10am, Youth Center.

Youth are invited to a weekly Sunday morning gathering including donuts (or other sweet treats) and good conversation. Youth will split up into middle school and high school groups for activities & discussion.



### 2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP | DES MOINES, IA | MAY 26 - 29

Youth from 6th-8th grades are invited for a weekend of serving, learning, and exploring around the Des Moines area May 26 - 29. We'll volunteer at several nonprofits and learn about different ways organizations are partnering in the sacred task to make the world more whole. We'll have some fun excursions (including a day at the local theme park Adventureland). These trips are a meaningful opportunity for youth to connect with each other and with their faith while creating lifelong memories! Registration will be open through the end of April, but don't wait to put it on your calendars and sign up!

The registration packet is available [HERE](#). Register online [HERE](#). You can submit a registration form and deposit in person at the church or by emailing the form to [April](#).



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[Consent & Release Form](#) is required for any youth attending youth ministry events.

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## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Celebration of Life for Jim Fitzpatrick** will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 4pm in the Sanctuary.



Meeting you where you are and walking alongside you on your spiritual journey to a life with greater meaning.



[Give Now](#)

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