

# Park Hill Christian Church

## NEWSLETTER

January 13, 2022

PRAISING  
LOVING  
SERVING



2022  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Prayer  
is the  
road to  
Heaven  
but  
Faith  
opens  
the door

live streaming



### **“I Don’t Want to Go to Church Anymore”**

“I don’t want to go to church anymore,” my wife Jennifer said to me. How could she say that? My wife didn’t want to go to the church I served as minister? It didn’t compute.

As is often the case, my shock at my wife’s declaration had a lot more to do with me than her. I was working so hard to try and get people to go to my church. I didn’t realize my own wife didn’t want to go there. Instead of asking why she felt that way, I felt defensive and even personally attacked. Over time my ego recovered enough where I could civilly talk about her feelings, but she didn’t wait for me to be okay with it. She stopped going to church.

Eventually my wife began attending services at a different church, one where her husband wasn’t the pastor and where she wasn’t the pastor’s wife. (Who knew listening to your spouse give a sermon wasn’t spiritually edifying?) At the other church, she didn’t have to worry about her kids acting up and it affecting her husband’s job. She realized that she had never chosen her own church. She had always gone where her parents had attended or where I worked, and she wanted to choose for herself. Most of all, she could simply be Jennifer at the other church and not who others expected her to be.

Jen taught me a lesson about listening to myself. She paid attention to how she felt at the church I served and she did not feel good being there. In fact, she picked up on a lot of the unhealthy things going on in that church which I missed as its pastor. Most of all, she realized why she was attending that church had everything to do with shoulds, oughts and shame rather than joy, purpose and meaning. She had come to that church out of obligation as my wife, as our sons’ mother, as a dutiful person, but not because she wanted to be there or because the church helped her grow in her relationship with God.



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In person or virtually via YouTube, Facebook Live, or Live Stream on our website: <https://park-hill-christian-church.sermoncloud.com/live>



We have live-streaming available on **YouTube**. You can find the live stream by searching YouTube for **Park Hill Christian Church KC** Sunday's service will also be livestreamed on our church **Facebook Page: Park Hill Christian Church KCMO**. Click on link provided to view. You can live stream on our website: <https://park-hill-christian-church.sermoncloud.com/live/> Choose the *streaming* option from menu.



- ❖ Continue to pray for Carolyn Waterman who is home recovering from surgery.
- ❖ Jerry Hoover is now home recuperating. He will also have surgery in February for skin cancer. Please lift him and Jane up in prayer
- ❖ Prayers for **Aker Bol** as she travels to Kenya and Sudan to visit family over the holidays from 12/4/21 - 1/20/22.
- ❖ Please continue to pray for **Grant James Garrett**, who has Aplastic Anemia and needs a bone marrow transplant. Because a donor has not yet been found, he is undergoing chemotherapy in Wisconsin. Pray for Grant and his family and that a donor is found.
- ❖ Learn about Bone Marrow Donor Opportunities here: [https://my.bethematch.org/s/join?language=en\\_US&joinCode=marrow7&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIvrqg9LG48wIVbXFvBB2vRA-fEAYASAAEgLVPPD1\\_BwE](https://my.bethematch.org/s/join?language=en_US&joinCode=marrow7&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIvrqg9LG48wIVbXFvBB2vRA-fEAYASAAEgLVPPD1_BwE)

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:**  
**Gary Bjorn, Harrell Green, Wendy Lashbrook, Pat Porter, Ben & Norma Phillips, Mary Jo Rinke, Marian Russell, Cindy Stehl, Jon Warren and Julie Waddle**

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS LIST UPDATED!**  
 Kindly report any changes/updates to the church office: [office@phcc.org](mailto:office@phcc.org) or call 816-741-1851

**ATTENDANCE NUMBERS on 1/2/22**

Face Book Live:	47 views
YouTube Channel:	4 view
Livestreaming:	13 views
In person:	20 attendees

**Social Media Data:** 

Past 7 days

**Twitter:** 93 impressions, 2 new followers, 140 profile visits

**Facebook:** 98 people reached, 36 engagements, 1 comments, 2 shares, 11 reactions

**Instagram:** 20 impressions, 1 profile views

**Website:** 130 page views, 76 unique visits, 1,597 pages viewed

**Online Newsletter:** 8 clicks    **Online Sunday Sermon:** 9 clicks

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Athens Church** will be using Sanctuary, nursery, infant room, and classrooms on Sundays from 10:45am to 12pm

**Oromo Evangelical Christian Church** will be using Sanctuary on **Sundays** from 12 Noon to 3pm. They will also have choir practice on **Monday** evenings at 6pm in Faith Keepers Class. 

**AA meetings** in person at Noon on **Mon/Wed/Fri** in **Genesis Class** and at 6:30pm on **Monday & Wednesday** in **Friendship Class**  
**AA Ladies Group Meeting** on **Fridays** at 1:30pm in Back Parking Lot

**Scouts** meet at 6:30pm in Meade Hall on Mondays & Tuesdays

**Faith Keepers and Friendship Classes** meet on **Sundays** after Worship in their respective classrooms

## January GYM PRACTICES

5:30 - 7pm Thur (Krtek)

7-8pm on Mondays (Horst)

5:30 – 7:30 pm Tue & Wed (Horst)

7:30 – 8:30 pm Wed (McPherson)



**SERVE**  
**THE LORD**  
**WITH GLADNESS**




*Hello January*

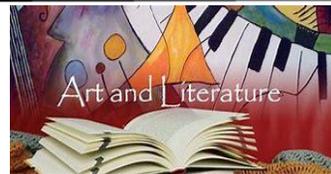


**Martin Luther King Day**  
**Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

No Preschool Classes

**Art & Lit Club Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

at Noon in Meade Hall



**Outreach Meeting at 5pm**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>** in

Pathfinders Class



**Scouts Pinewood Derby Day**  
**Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

in Gym



**Scouts Lock in January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**



PHCC Birthday Dinner, January  
 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm



Coming soon Chili Dinner  
 Watch for details

## **“I Don’t Want to Go to Church Anymore”**

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Jen had the integrity to own her decision to stop going to church. She wasn’t passive aggressive saying one thing and doing another. She didn’t make promises she didn’t keep. She didn’t sabotage or undermine my choice to be there. She didn’t make excuses not to attend. She didn’t blame others. She paid attention to herself and her own needs and acted on them, even if I had trouble understanding them.

I tend to be a person who is motivated by questions like “what should I do?” and “what ought I to do?” At heart, I’m a pleaser and want people around me to be happy, so I am focused on others often at the cost of myself. As a result, I’ve learned that I am pretty lousy at listening to myself, taking responsibility for my own needs and owning my own decisions. I can end up judgmental about whether or not I believe others are doing what they should be doing. I end up being resentful and blaming others for not meeting my expectations and ultimately for making me happy and fulfilled. None of this is healthy spiritual behavior. (I’m also good at beating myself up, feeling shame and struggling with guilt, real or imaginary.)

In my own life, and as a pastor, I’m trying to learn the lessons my wife continues to teach me about listening to myself and urging others to do the same. These lessons seem especially true when it comes to church participation and attendance in 2021.

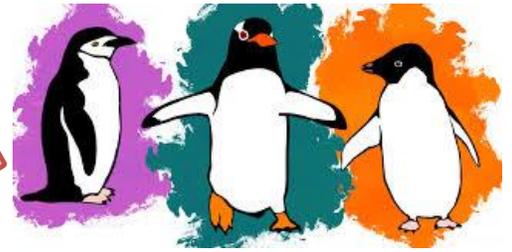
It is painfully obvious when I walk into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at Park Hill Christian Church that people are missing. The same is true when I attend committee and board meetings. People are not present who used to be here. At first the reason seemed obvious, We were experiencing a deadly pandemic and vaccines were not yet available. Then once vaccines were available a surge from the Delta variant occurred. When Delta subsided last summer and all who wanted to be vaccinated were, many people did not return. (This was before the current Omicron surge.) Why not? For many, their age or other factors make attendance in person too great a risk, but what about those without these risk factors? My own search for an answer to that question traveled a predictable path. First I blamed myself, was I not a “good” enough pastor? (Attendance usually declines during interim pastorates, but not this much.) Then I blamed others. “People just aren’t committed” I thought. Finally, I considered my wife’s point of view and wondered, “What if they are listening to themselves, considering their own needs and thinking about where they need to be?”

In churches like PHCC across the country, clergy report similar drops in attendance and participation. Scholars of religion state that Covid has vastly accelerated declines in church participation that have been going on for decades. Our culture is not demonstrably more evil or sinful. Nor is it less spiritual or religious. It is, however, less interested in organized religion, at least the way churches have done things for the last century or so.

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Story time with  
Ms. Jo



# Upcoming Events

**Happy Birthday!**



Come celebrate with us a birthday blowout, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Life Center. More details to come.

It's a chili dinner coming February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm. Join us as we steam up the winter night. Watch for more details soon!



## SAVE THE DATES

**2022 GKC SUMMER CAMP  
@ TALL OAKS**

- Day Camp: June 11 & July 23
- Grandparents Camp: June 11-13
- Grandparents Camp: July 15-17
- Primary Camp: July 25-27
- Jr Camp: July 11-14
- Chi-Rho Classic: July 25-29
- Eighters Camp: July 8-14
- CYF: June 21-26

## **“I Don’t Want to Go to Church Anymore”**

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I’d love to shake my fist at the heavens, stand in the pulpit and condemn people who don’t feel the same sense of obligation I do to be a part of a church like PHCC, but then I would be condemning my wife, whose spiritual journey surpasses my own and inspires me in so many ways. Most of all, her example challenges me to consider where it is that I am motivated to be out of joy, purpose and fulfillment instead of obligation, shame and guilt? This isn’t a selfish question but a sincere question about where God can bring out the best in me.

Thanks to Jen, I’ve developed a theory that the steep decline in church attendance and participation isn’t an increase in selfishness or a lack of commitment. Maybe Covid gave folks a time to pause and think about where they most need to be. Those less in touch with themselves will make excuses and cast stones at churches complaining about old worship styles, boring meetings, and hypocritical believers to justify their absence. Those more in touch with themselves, however, will own their actions and admit they need something different to be their true selves and to grow in their spiritual lives. They will take responsibility for their actions and choices rather than blaming others. Instead of passive aggression, they will lovingly depart and go where they need to go.

As much as I would like everyone in the world to go to the church where I am pastor (including my wife), what I really want is for people to be a part of faith communities where they can best have their needs met and best serve the needs of others—even if that’s not at my church. I want them to go where God wants and needs them to be rather than where I think is best. Some might not end up going to any church at all, but I hope many will find whatever it is they do need in a church rather than feeling guilty and ashamed for not going to this one or blaming the church and causing division and harm on their way out the door.

I pray for every member and participant of PHCC to listen to themselves, take a look at their presence or absence and seek God’s wisdom. Whether at PHCC or somewhere else, I pray all will find places that bring joy, purpose and meaning.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Chase Peeples

*Special  
Thank You*



Jim Brown and family would like to thank everyone for the cards and calls in the recent passing of his daughter.

# Park Hill Christian Church

6601 NW 72nd St  
Kansas City, MO 64151

Connect with us:

Phone: 816-741-1851

Fax: 816-741-1898

Website: [www.parkhillcc.org](http://www.parkhillcc.org)

## **Sunday Service:**

Join us at 9:00 am

Live Streaming available at  
[http://p23.worshipstream.com/  
115/ParkHillChristianChurch](http://p23.worshipstream.com/115/ParkHillChristianChurch)

## **Interim Minister**

Reverend Chase Peoples

## **Ministry Support Administrator**

Melissa Foley

[office@parkhillcc.org](mailto:office@parkhillcc.org)

## **Church Executive Committee**

Jill Watson, Carl Kimbrell,  
Don Bonjour

## **Elder Chair**

Damon Stewart

## **Deacon Chair**

Don Bonjour

## **Music Director**

Rajean Buffa

## **AV Tech – Social Media/Web**

Kathy Hendrix

## **Facebook:**

Praisinglovingsservingkc

## **Twitter:**

@Parkhill\_CC

## **Instagram:**

ParkhillChristianChurchKC

## **YouTube:**

ParkhillChristianChurchKC

*Wishing you and yours a*

**HAPPY**  
*New Year*