

Park Hill Christian Church

NEWSLETTER

October 22, 2020

Two Questions About the Future of Park Hill Christian Church

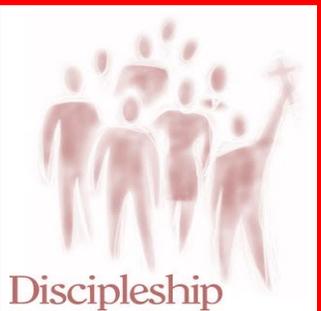
When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. --1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NRSV

As a minister, my inbox is filled with emails promising tools guaranteed to grow my church. It's a hazard of the profession. I tend to view such offers with skepticism, because if all these strategies and tools worked then why are there so many dying churches these days? Sure, in every community there's usually one large church that everyone points to as proof churches can grow and usually the finger pointing at the large church turns to point with judgment at one's own smaller church. The problem with such judgment is that nobody mentions that the larger churches often succeed not by making new converts but by sucking up members from smaller churches like a spiritual vacuum. Often the larger churches (especially the megachurches) are cults of personality that have found ways to put on a better show instead of authentic communities of faith.

Don't get me wrong, things like an attractive building, effective preaching, quality music and offerings for kids and youth all matter, but they matter less than many realize. There's no excuse for churches offering low quality ministry, but a lot of congregations out there purporting to be thriving churches are superficial, consumer-oriented fluff. It's pretty packaging on an empty box.

As PHCC makes decisions about its future, it will save itself a lot of time, aggravation and money accepting that most churches are never going to be as large as they were a generation or two ago. That's not the world we live in anymore. As I've written previously, I'm not convinced the larger numbers present in the post-war church boom in the 1950's and early 1960's really amounted to more disciples of Jesus Christ. Sure, church pews and bank accounts were full, but that's not the same as people devoted to following Jesus. If it were so, then why is it that when our society's approval and rewarding of church involvement waned churches began declining? Many who came to church did so, because it was good for business and their standing in their communities. When such "earthly" rewards went away, so did their need to go to church.

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**Join us on Sundays at 9am
In person or on-line**

**In person Sunday Worship or
watch on You Tube, Facebook Live
or Live Stream on our website**



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 church

Facebook Page: Park Hill Christian Church KCMO. Click on link provided to view.

You can live stream on our website <https://www.parkhillcc.org/> Choose the *streaming* option from top menu.



PRAYER REQUEST

- ❖ Prayers for **Billy Porter** who is under Hospice care.
- ❖ Please pray for **Matt Maddill**. He is a son of a friend of Melanie and Doug Doll and has leukemia.
- ❖ Prayers for our drummer, **Ron Ashlock** who is dealing with health issues.
- ❖ **Jack Warren** passed away on September 27th. Please pray for his family as they mourn his passing. A service will be held at a later date.
- ❖ Many continued prayers requested for **Harrell Green** as he recovers from a leg amputation. Pray for Judy Green too.
- ❖ Prayers requested for **Ben & Norma Phillips**. They both are battling ongoing health issues.
- ❖ Continued prayers requested for **Michael Diggs**. He is the husband of the Platte County R3 Superintendent's and Board of Education Secretary Vickie Diggs. He is battling cancer.
- ❖ Continued prayers for **Jerry Kasten** who is experiencing health issues and is doing a bit better. He is the brother of law of Marilyn Connor.
- ❖ Prayers for **Barbara McCauley** who is experiencing a cancer resurgence. The McCauley family were Charter members.



Continued Prayers:

Edna Annunzio, Werner Beldo, Gary Bjorn, Norma Phillips, Rick Howell, Wendy Lashbrook, Bill Porter, Virginia Long: Martha Fullerton's Mother, Cindy Stehl, Carolyn Waterman, Jonathan Valler, Julie Waddle, Jim & Sharon Sumner's daughter, Susan Yeager, Mary Jo Rinke, Steve Plagmann, The family of Renae Dishman Ronayne, friends of Martha Fullerton, Pat Stehl, and Rick Rollins, friend of the Hoovers.

Let us join you in prayer... ✝

Contact the church office, or have a loved one contact us, if you have been admitted to the hospital, would like a special visit, or would like to be placed on the church prayer list. Please notify us when you want to be removed from the prayer list. We are here for our beloved Park Hill Christian Church family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Athens Church will be meeting in the Sanctuary on Sundays from 4:30pm to 7pm through December.



AA meets weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Friendship Class.

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

Basketball (Denig) at 6pm on Wednesdays in Gym.



AA meetings are meeting virtually via Zoom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon for a while instead of in person.

In lieu of **Trunk or Treat**, we are collecting candy for treat bags for the families of students at Merry Moments preschool. If you would like to donate, you can drop off candy at the church office before October 26th.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIMES ENDS NOV 1st

Worship Committee Meeting
November 1st at 10:15am at art table.

Elder Meeting via Zoom Meeting, on November 8th at 8:30am.

Lydia Circle meets on November 9th at 6:30pm. More details coming soon.

Virtual Executive Meeting on November 10th. Zoom credentials coming soon.

Art & Literature Club meets on November 17th at Noon in Meade Hall.

We are sad to announce that there will be **NO Turkey Dinner** this November.



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:
Elders Helping Elders

Time: Oct 25, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99482503727?pwd=dVduUFBidmNNOWdZdVNwMHIrSTZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 994 8250 3727

Passcode: 217476

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,99482503727#,,,,,0#,,217476# US

Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/aEl6eaPfr>

Future of Park Hill Christian Church

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I believe smaller churches can thrive if they are willing to offer something that is authentic, loving and vulnerable. These qualities are what made Christianity grow exponentially in a Roman Empire that was hostile to it. People came, because in the Christian faith community they were valued in ways society did not value them. People who had no place to belong found belonging. People who found no awe and wonder in the gods of culture discovered the awe and wonder of the one true God. People were loved because of the image of God inside them made them valuable instead of feeling they were valued only because they were important, wealthy or influential. That's why Christianity flourished. Where these qualities are found, Christianity will always thrive.



United Church of Christ minister Jennifer Brownell makes this point in an eloquent way:

What if church growth, though, was less about a plan or a program and more about an orientation, an attitude, a way of being? What if the most attractive feature of your church to young families (and old singles and all the configurations of humanity in between) was that you had the kind of true peace that confronted conflict in a healthy, unafraid way? What if the most appealing growth plan was a commitment to faith so unabashedly reverent that it looked something like awe? What if the best church growth program of all was a community of people giving and receiving the kind of comfort that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit? I mean, I don't know if it would work. But if your church is anything like mine, you've tried everything else.

PHCC leaders have begun important conversations about how the church should move forward and what the future of the church will look like. These are the kind of preliminary conversations that are essential and must take place before a pastoral search really gets going. Conversations that ask the right questions before a pastoral search gets up and running. Questions such as:

1. Is our goal as a church to be as big as we were twenty years ago or fifty years ago?
2. Or is our goal to be as faithful as we can be in the here and now with whoever will do so with us?

The difference between those two questions is all the difference in the world.

The first question leads to searching for a pastor, setting priorities in spending and attempting ministries that exhaust a small congregation and leave everyone feeling like they have failed. The second question leads to a congregation which looks for a spiritual guide rather than a charismatic guru and ministries that flow out of what church people gladly offer rather than guiltily and half-heartedly hand over. The first question leads to a competition between our church and other churches. The second question leads to us sharing what we have with anyone and everyone who is working to build the Kingdom of God. The first question leads to making our church look good, so we look good, but the second question leads to God getting the credit God deserves.

I don't know about you, but I want to be a part of a faith community that helps me know God's peace, love and grace rather than a church that contributes to my insecurities which say who I am is dependent on how much I own, who I know and whether or not I can write a big check. There's a reason why yoga classes are everywhere, online courses offering help with mindfulness fill our social media feeds, and self-help books are best sellers. People are just as hungry for peace and purpose as they ever were. The need is real, but it will not be met at a church whose biggest goal is to have more numbers—more people in the pew and more money in the bank.

I'd rather go to a small church that is real than a big church that's fake. How about you?

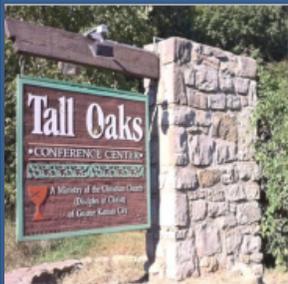
Grace and Peace, Chase



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Watch your mail for upcoming stewardship letters from Park Hill Christian Church.



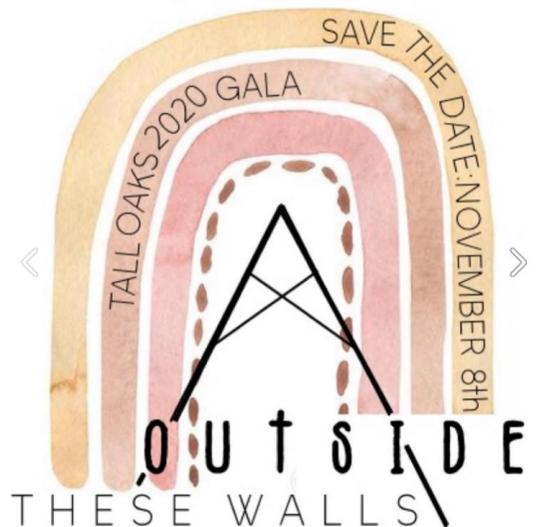
REMINDER...
The Tall Oaks Gala is
Going Virtual!

Sunday, November 8th
Evening Program and
Live Auction

Sunday, November 8-15—Silent Auction

The Virtual Live and Online Silent Auctions
will be new and exciting!

Questions, please contact ANN MORTON
913/515-3828 or amorton324@gmail.com



<https://www.talloaks.org/2020gala>

For over 50 years, children, youth and adults have attended camps, conferences and retreats at Tall Oaks. Tall Oaks also serves many other groups in our community such as summer camps for young people with juvenile diabetes, autism and foster kids.

All proceed from the gala will benefit this wonderful ministry on our regions.

Thanks for your support.



Financial Report for PHCC Newsletter

(Adj for deprec & loan principal & not including designated inc/exp)

Month of September	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
Income	27,119		25,008
Expense	<u>24,189</u>	#	<u>24,328</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>2,930</u>		<u>680</u>
Year to Date January-September	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
Income	188,737		207,151
Expense	<u>190,791</u>		<u>228,965</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(2,054)</u>		<u>(21,814)</u>
REUNION CAMPAIGN	<u>Sept</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Income (Contributions Received)	7,850		16,050
Expense (Loan Principal Paid Down)	<u>9,650</u>		<u>13,450</u>
Impact of timing lag	(1,800)		2,600 *

*Mortgage principal payment of \$2600 on 10/7 will show on next month's report. Total paid to mortgage principal from campaign = \$16,050.

ALLOCATION OF CASH AVAILABLE

As of September 30	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
Total of checking & savings	84,747		60,292
Special Offering Funds	23,386	#	38,555
Memorial Funds	10,403		12,328
Fuller Center Funds	<u>21,886</u>		<u>23,886</u>
Total Designated Accounts	<u>55,675</u>		<u>74,769</u>
*Net Cash Available (Short)	<u>29,072</u>		<u>(14,477)</u>

*NOTE THAT \$36,300 OF PPP LOAN PROCEEDS IS INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL OF CHECKING & SAVINGS FOR 2020.

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

Online Sunday School The audio/video for the session starts promptly at 10:15am.

We started a 6-week series of study based on a book by Diana Butler Bass entitled, "Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks" (2018). If you would like to view the trailer for the program, click on this link -

https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film_series/grateful

**In addition to the current Zoom meeting, those who wish to join in at the church building in person, can gather in the Friendship classroom to join the live Zoom call. Those participating in person will need to wear masks and socially distance and can take part without having to go home and connect online there. PLEASE NOTE!
The new start time for the class will NOW be 10:15am.**



We start the class at 10:15am on Sundays and take a few moments for sharing of celebrations and concerns. We will have a discussion after the video is completed. Please join us. The process of logging in is very simple. Even if you do not have the zoom software, there is opportunity for you to just dial into the session via your telephone. If you have any questions relative to logging into the session, email Pete Fullerton at petefullerton2012@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7283590567?pwd=ZnlTcnVDcHlSczVHeXV3dUo3Szdudz09>

Meeting ID: 728 359 0567

Passcode: 018255



MAKES A DIFFERENCE

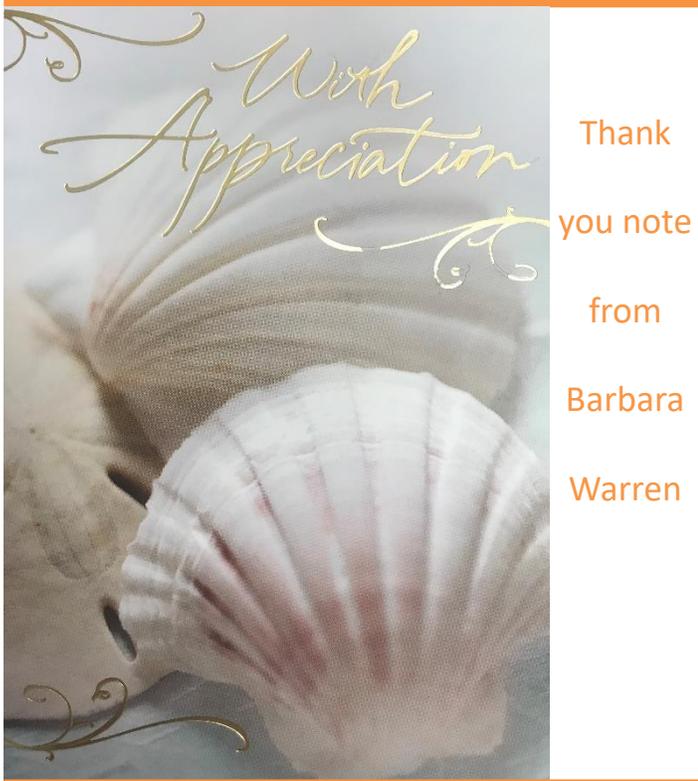
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NUMBERS for 10/18/20

Attendance numbers for
October 18th 2020

Face Book Live:	25 views
YouTube Channel:	14 views
Livestreaming:	17 views
In person:	22 attendees





Dear Friends of the Care Group,
Thank you for the cards, calls, offer of help and mostly your prayers, during the last 7 months.
I truly appreciate and love each and every one of you.
Barbara

Faith Keepers Group

Thanks to everyone who was so kind in your donation amounts for Julie Obido, a student in the Philippines, that we sponsor through Childrens International. The group has been sponsoring children for several years via Childrens International.

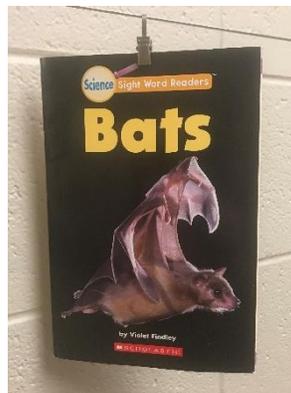
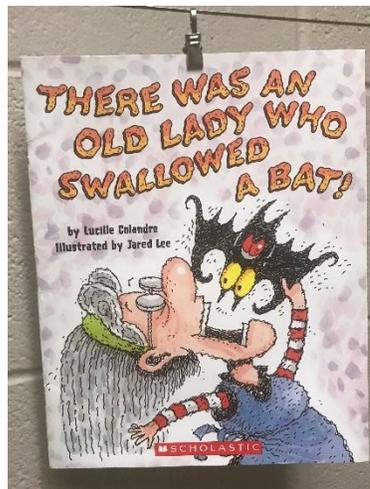
We ended up with a total of \$450 – how great that she will now have \$150 over and above the sponsorship of \$300!! This amount will be used to by gifts for her such as birthday, Christmas, Easter, and any other very much needed items for her family such as food, medical care, clothing and personal items - maybe even a bed of some kind for Julie as I seemed to remember that she sleeps on the floor Again, thank you for your contributions. You make me proud to be associated with such a great group of caring people. God Bless!!!!

Jim Brown



PreSchool News

The preschoolers kept busy making Halloween themed artwork this week. They also read books about bats.



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

Facebook Page:

Praisinglovingsservingkc

Sunday Service:

Join us at 9:10 am

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

Interim Minister

Reverend Chase Peoples

Ministry Leader

with Young People

Vacant

Ministry Support Administrator

Melissa Foley

office@parkhillcc.org

Church Executive Committee

Jill Watson, Carl Kimbrell,
Don Bonjour

Elder Chair

Damon Stewart

Deacon Chair

Don Bonjour

Music Director

Rajeon Buffa

Organist

Doris Stevenson

Audio/Video Tech

Kathy Hendrix

