

THE PATHWAY

Our Vision

We are becoming a beacon of faith, drawing people to Jesus

Our Mission

We will serve Jesus by touching people's lives and teaching them to have Kingdom-minded hearts.

Our Values

- * **Welcoming:** We meet you at the door and receive you as one of our family.
- * **Family:** We encourage families of all ages and stages, and those in need of families, to be a part of our church family.
- * **Christ-centered:** We focus our worship, our teachings, and our lifestyle choices on Jesus.
- * **Scripture:** We encourage everyone to have an understanding of The Bible as God's inspired communication to all.
- * **Prayerful:** We communicate to God in prayer to strengthen our relationship with Him.
- * **Supportive:** We support and uplift each other through our prayers, fellowship, and service to one another.
- * **Evangelism:** We share the message of salvation both locally and globally.

FROM THE PASTOR

This life is tough.

As I am writing this letter to you, I have sleep in my eyes from a short evening. Finally, when I felt tired enough to try to sleep, my mind kept me awake with tough things. Have you ever experienced this before? Have you ever had a restless night of sleep and when you woke up, your perception was that everything is gloomy? Well, that is me today.

I know what you are thinking, "Wow, this new guy likes to complain," and your next response might be, "Well suck it up buttercup." Maybe you just thought, "Stinks to be you," or maybe I get a little sympathy and your thought sounds like this: "Wow, I should pray for this guy."

Regardless of your response, I only share this with you because I know that you can relate to where I am today. I know that you have experienced things in your life that have made it to be a tough season in life. But I also share this with you because, well... I do not know any other way to communicate than this: to be "real" or authentic.

But with even sleep in my eyes, my first cup of coffee almost done, I heard a still small voice repeat itself to me today while getting ready, "I am with you." "I am with you." Now I did not hear an audible voice nor did I hear those exact words, but I sensed them deep within my Spirit this morning through comfort and peace and there I gathered that phrase as I prayed this morning, "I am with you. I am here. I love you."

Now, I do not know if you have ever experienced that before, a phrase or a "word" like from within your soul. It might have been a tough time in life. Maybe it was during something exciting in your life. Maybe it was in the ordinary part of your day and you sensed God was with you in that very moment.

Regardless if you have experienced something like that or not, you need to know this Truth: God is with us!

Yes He is!

In every moment, God is with you.

He's with you through the pain. He comforts you in the waiting. When you're anxious about your future, He gives you courage. As you climb the mountain, He keeps you safe in His arms. In every moment, God is with you.

Do you want to know the ironic thing about all this? Are you capable to handle something so incredibly awesome about this letter to you and what the Lord is doing in my heart? In preparing for this Christmas season, I began to pray and process what our message series could be. I came across the idea of "God with us" as the title about a month ago. You know, like Emmanuel, God with us... that Christmas-y word that we only use around this time of the year.

Fast forward a couple weeks and here I am this morning, experiencing the desperate need for a Savior and being reminded that God is with me!

Tell me this... Isn't our God so good? Isn't He incredible? For Him to know exactly what we need at the right time and to know specifically how to minister to our hearts and souls just in the nick of time during those tough times.

I am reminded of some lyrics of a worship song, *God so Good*, in this moment:

*I'm leaning on the everlasting arms
That place me on the Rock that stands
And I hold true to the One who breaks my fall
And lifts me time and time again*

*Oh, my God so good, You never give up
You never give up on me
Oh, what joy I've found because of Your love
Because of Your love for me*

Despite what season you are in and what your circumstances are in this present moment, as you read this letter, be blessed by knowing this truth for you... God is always with you!

Matt



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Men's Breakfast December 29, 7:30 a.m.

Guys, meet us for breakfast fellowship on the last Sunday of each month. All men are invited to join in at 7:30 a.m. at IHOP on Sunday, December 29.



SERVING AT RHCC

Cleaning Crew 1 for December

Cleaning Crew 1 is cleaning for the month of December. Thanks to our cleaning crews for all of their hard work!

We can always use more hands on our cleaning crews. Please contact the church office if you can help.

Prayer Team

A church that prays together stays together.

Join the prayer team and receive a weekly email of the prayer needs that have been shared. Please contact the

church office or email pray@rhccopeka.org if you would like to be added to our email prayer list and be in prayer for the needs of the church body.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Over four-hundred children and their families attended our Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 31! Though the potential for bad weather moved our activities indoors, we had a great time in the warmth of the building, as creatures great and small toured the halls to see the fantastic trunk decorations. From cookies to trunks to candy to parking lot guides, thanks to all who made the event possible!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ALPHA



The church will be providing Christmas gifts for Alpha Christian Children's Home. Watch your upcoming bulletins for details. We hope to have a sign-up available soon in the church foyer, so you can help bless the families of Alpha this Christmas.

WITH SYMPATHY

We would like to extend our sympathy to Kelli Denton and family on the loss of her father, William "Bill" Warden. Bill passed away on November 8. We are sorry for your loss.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Board Meeting, December 15, 5:00 p.m.

The Elder and Deacon Board Meeting is on Sunday, December 15, starting at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be included. Please submit agenda items to the church office by Sunday, December 8.

Church Leadership Contact Information

Please continue to pray for our church leaders. Feel free to contact any board member with concerns or ministry needs:

- Mel Christenberry, Elder: 785-383-6458
- Bill Hollingshead, Elder: 785-319-9211
- Eric Showalter, Elder: 785-224-4994
- Joe White, Elder: 785-506-4715
- Kevin Wohletz, Elder: 785-250-3157
- Walt Baker (text only): 785-220-6721
- Jim Clark: 785-249-3461
- Bruce Maples: 785-249-2750
- David Maples: 785-249-0507
- Kurtis Wells: 785-220-8449
- Dustin Mengarelli: 620-724-2877
- Pastor Matt: matt@rhccopeka.org; 785-286-0601

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Caroling ♦ Holiday snacks ♦ Fun with friends

You won't want to miss our annual Christmas Fellowship and Caroling night on Sunday, December 22! We start by singing carols in a variety of locations, including houses and nursing homes (locations TBA!), and then finish the night at the home of a church family for a time of Christmas celebration and fellowship. Everyone is invited to bring a snack or treat to share for fellowship.

Are you interested in hosting the post-caroling festivities? Contact Bruce Maples if you would like to open your home to the church family.



Carols and Candlelight Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas with your church family on Christmas Eve! Bring your family and neighbors as we worship together with Christmas carols, communion, and candle-

light.

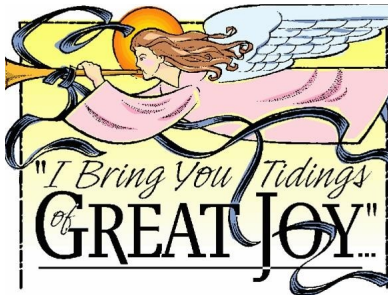
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Ladies' Salad Sampler, Sunday, Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our annual Ladies' Salad Sampler on Sunday, December 8. Bring your favorite salad or dessert to share for our meal, and come enjoy special music by Josh Whisler! *A love offering will be taken in appreciation of Josh's time and talent.*

We will again this year have a fun gift exchange. Please bring an ornament or other small gift valued \$5 or less for the exchange. If you are bringing guests, please be sure they know of the gift exchange and a gift is provided for their participation.

So we can be sure to have enough space for everyone, please sign up in the church foyer to indicate your interest in attending and/or helping with the event.



Ladies' Bible Study, Thursdays, 9 a.m.

Our ladies' Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. We are studying **Dwelling in God's Peace**, by Sarah Young. All ladies are welcome!

STUDENT MINISTRIES



Youth Group, Sundays at 4 p.m.

Youth Group for Junior and Senior High School is on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Bring your friends for Bible study and fun group activities!

Youth Group to SICOM

Several students and chaperones attended a day of the International Convention on Missions, in Kansas City on Saturday, November 16. They got to meet and learn from missionaries, visit with several Christian Colleges, collect some fun swag, and do service projects for those in need. What a great experience for our youth and their sponsors!



Church Offerings, October and November Weekly Budget Need: \$3,000

Date	Offering	Date	Offering
10/27	\$2,515	11/3	\$3,191
		11/10	\$1,435
Oct. Avg	\$2,367	11/17	\$7,009

SERVING AT ROLLING HILLS FOR DECEMBER, 2019

LEAD ELDER AND DEACON— Eric Showalter and David Maples

SONG LEADER — Melissa Boutz

PIANIST — Tari Metzler

SOUND – Bryan Boutz

COMPUTER – April Wohletz

CHURCH CLEANERS – Crew 1

COMMUNION PREPARATION – Walt & Terry Baker

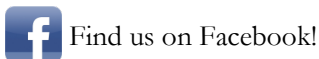
* Communion Meditation

1	8	15	22	29
* John McElroy Mel Christenberry Harold Watson Zander White	* John McElroy Mel Christenberry Harold Watson Zander White	* Bruce Maples David Maples Walt Baker Mike Denton	* Bruce Maples David Maples Walt Baker Mike Denton	* Bruce Maples David Maples Walt Baker Mike Denton
MISSIONS UPDATE				
Arlene Marshall	Georgia Ford	Eric Showalter	Sharlene Showalter	Arlene Marshall
GREETERS				
Christenberry / Clark	Coffman / Denton	Flesher / Ford	Hollingshead / Lehew	Maples / Marshall
NURSERY WORKERS				
B Johnson / JA Boutz	T Baker / K Flesher	T Briggs / T Smith	B Watson / J Barnes	B Johnson / JA Boutz
PRESCHOOL WORSHIP				
Karen Seel	Marcia James/ Megan Perry	Amy White	Karen Seel	April Wells
ELEMENTARY WORSHIP: April Wells (5th Sunday Family Sunday)				

ROLLING HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Come Join Us!

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

COMING UP AT ROLLING HILLS

- Sun., Dec 8:** Ladies' Salad Sampler, 5:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec 15: Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
Newsletter Information due
(Newsletter information is due on the 3rd Sunday of each month.)
Sun., Dec. 22: Christmas Caroling and Fellowship
Tues., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!
Sun., Dec. 29: Men's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Weekly:

Sundays: Youth Group, 4 p.m.; Thursdays: Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: Senior Fit & Fun, 1:30 p.m.



The Pathway is available on our website! Simply e-mail us to let us know if you prefer not to receive a paper copy of the church newsletter.
In 2020 we will begin to explore more online communication to save time and money. Watch for these changes, coming soon!

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Tanglewood Care Home Ministry

Sisters in Service will help with Bingo on Dec. 12, at 2:15 p.m. Extra help is always appreciated! They continue to need small items for prizes, and there is a collection basket in the foyer for donations.

Topeka Rescue Mission

Join in on December 23 at 9 a.m. for an ongoing volunteer opportunity currently served by the Sisters in Service at the Topeka Rescue Mission.

Operation Backpack with Topeka North Outreach

Operation Backpack serves under-served children in North Topeka with weekend food sacks. They meet during the school year on the 1st Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at Indian Creek Elementary.

