



The Vital Spark

February 24, 2015

A message from our Senior Pastor, Jacob Thorne



We are now officially in the season of Lent. And in today's article, based on an essay I read from the Jesuit priest James Martin, I want to share five ways in which we can approach the forty days of Lent.

Number One: Be Human. We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to try and measure to up goals and ideals that we cannot always accomplish. Perhaps during the season of Lent you have decided to give up something you enjoy in order to be more mindful of the sacrifices Christ has made for you? Perhaps you are trying to be more intentional in your prayer life? Whatever it may be, remember that is okay, and understandable, if you do not meet your goals and expectations every day. As humans, we try to do the best we can and when we don't, which is unavoidable, we have the blessing from God to receive grace and try again.

Number Two. Don't try to be someone else to be holy. This is a piece of advice that I need to say to myself more often. As a minister, I am in constant conversation, through friends, colleagues, and parishioners, with what I consider to be the saints of the church. Some of you at CCC fit this description easily. At times, I think to myself, "I wish I could have a prayer life like that." Or, "I wish I could have as much faith and trust as he or she does." And while others lead as examples for each of us, the bottom line is that we are meant to be who we are purely by the creation of who God intended us to be. Just be yourself—nothing more and nothing else.

Number Three. You can't please everyone. This is difficult to accept, isn't it? We try hard to make others feel content. For many of us, it is our nature to nurture. If there is conflict, we seek ways for peace. We try to listen. We try to provide advice. We even, sometimes knowingly and unknowingly, find ourselves in triangulated relationships. But the truth is we can't make everyone happy. That's not our job. The sooner we realize this, the greater sense of freedom we will possess.

Number Four. Don't let someone else prevent you from being who you are. During the Super Bowl a few weeks ago, there was an advertisement called "Run Like A Girl." The commercial focuses on the ways in which young women, boys, and girls understand the phrase "like a girl." It addresses the serious concern that girls, once they hit the teenage years, have a huge drop in self-confidence. As a parent of two young daughters, the greatest joys of my life, this of course troubles me. Never, whether during the season of Lent or at any other time, let someone else determine who you are going to be.

Number Five. You are not Jesus. Thank goodness for this. We are not God. We are not Jesus. We do not have to be perfect, possess all of the answers, persuade others to make the right choice, pretend we always make the right decisions, or perform miracles and healings. During this season Lent, let's let God be God.

I hope these few suggestions help during your Lenten journey.

Blessings,

Jacob

Attendance:	Feb. 15	Feb. 22
Sunday School	63	66
Worship		
8:30	101	112
10:45	75	84
	176	196

Publication Deadlines:	
Article Deadline	Publication Date
March 5	March 10
March 19	March 24
April 2	April 7

Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
9:45 a.m. Faith Learning
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service

Sunday, March 1

Can You Hear Me Now?
Psalm 22: 1-5
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Sunday, March 8

Youth Sunday
Finding Hope in Uncertain Times
Matthew 6:25-34
Combined Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 15

Intentional Spiritual Growth
Hebrews 10: 22-25
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Prayer List

Kathy Bumeter; Bill Tichacek; Ruth Morrison; Bob Seymour; Karen Kelly; Betty Bremer; Joann Brown, mother of Steve Brown; Jerome Dupuis, father of Rich Dupuis; Becky Schleusner and Zoe Donsky, family of Sandy Schleusner; Brandon Hamm, friend of Sandy Schleusner; John and Lee Smith, friends of Chris and Gary Meier; Jacobsmeyer triplets, grandchildren of Randy and Beckie Jacobsmeyer; Chris Berry, mother of Christine Meier; Paul Johnson, uncle of Kara Chapman; Steve Traylor, friend of Kay Gauble; Gen Walker, friend of Joan Tichacek; Linda Brother, mother of Cheryl Graber and Laura Winters; Natasha Knight, daughter of Mike and Shelli Knight; Brauner family, friends of Liz & Rich Dupuis; Jordan Hennessey, friend of Finch family; Catherine Grams, great aunt of Julie Swaney and Pam Welker; Madeline Seward, granddaughter of a friend of Maribeth Hollon; Tracey Gladden, teacher of Molly Finch; Karla Morris, friend of Kay Gauble; Wilbur Bosecker, brother of Wanda Morgenthaler.

Remember those of our congregation who cannot worship with us on a regular basis: Lucille Pressnell, Tom Van Horn, Janet Head, Betty Bremer, Ruby Garrison, Barbara Wood.

Disciples Women Retreat

The Disciples Women's Ministry is excited to announce that Rev. Cari Frus is making a return visit to Community Christian Church to lead our Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 7th, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Wunderlich Center. Cari brought a fresh perspective to the Bethlehem story at Advent by Candlelight that opened our hearts and minds to the true meaning of Christmas. At our retreat, she will be challenging us to consider "**Circles of Being: Who We Are, How We Love, and Caring for the Worlds We Live In.**" You won't want to miss this lively and interactive exploration of our varied roles as women in a multi-tiered and rapidly changing environment. Tickets can be purchased in the Narthex following Worship services each Sunday through March 1st. Cost for the retreat including lunch is \$10.00 per person.

Service Project for March

The **Outreach Project for March** will be **Kid Friendly Food**. Spring Break will be here soon and the kids will be home and hungry! Some food ideas are; peanut butter, jelly, fruit, cereal, granola bars, fruit snacks, macaroni and cheese and canned pasta. These are just some suggestions, there are many things that kids enjoy. Our food donations will go to **Circle of Concern**. A box will be in the narthex labeled "**Kid Friendly Food**".

Thank you for Donations sent to College Students

Thank you to all who gave cookie and snack donations to our **February Disciples Women Outreach Project**. Last Friday we filled 22 boxes and sent them to our college students. The boxes should have been delivered on Monday. A big thank you to those who came to fill, seal and label the boxes. Dick and Diane Hall helped me take the boxes to the post office which was a big help to me. Linda Newton

Priscilla Circle and Rebecca Circle March Meetings

Priscilla Circle meets on Tuesday, March 10th at 7 p.m. in the CCC Library. All women are invited to share in fellowship, service and study. Please contact Pennie Anderson at 636-227-6331 if you have any questions.

Rebecca Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Narthex of CCC. I am sorry we missed the February meeting but hope everyone was warm and safe! Cindy Herman will provide the study and you will not want to miss it!! The hostesses will be Glenna Allen and Jean Burt (great duo)! Invite friends to share in the fellowship, refreshments, and fun of being a part of Disciple Women! If you have questions, please call the Church Office or Diane Hall at 636-517-1153.



Spring Party

All children participating in God's Kids Choir are invited to stay after practice this Sunday, March 1st, for dinner and games from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

There will be no Children's Sunday School on March 8th, Youth Sunday.

CCC Youth Group

Youth Sunday is March 8th

Youth Sunday is quickly approaching. On March 8th, we will celebrate with a single service at 10 a.m. The youth will lead the congregation in service using a theme of Finding Hope in Uncertain Times. The young ladies and gentlemen of our church having been working very hard with Steve Staicoff to develop a moving message. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

As a reminder, this will also be the same weekend of the start of daylight savings time, so don't forget to spring your clock forward!

Youth Group Calendar

- March 1 - Regular Youth Group 4 - 6 p.m.
- March 7 (Saturday) Youth Sunday Rehearsal 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meet in Narthex
- March 8 - Youth Sunday 10 a.m.
- March 15 & 22 - No Youth Group (Spring Break)
- March 29 - Youth Group 4 - 6 p.m.
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday Prayer Stations 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- April 5 - Easter Sunday - No Youth Group

Save the Date for Movie Night at CCC

Mark your calendar for a showing of the film Into Great Silence, an examination of life inside the Grande Chartreuse, the head monastery of the reclusive Carthusian Order in France, on Friday, March 27th at 7 p.m.

Quarterly Men's Breakfast

Men of all ages are invited to participate in the first quarterly breakfast of 2015 on Saturday, March 14th . We will meet in the WFLC at 8:00 a.m. for juice, coffee, and fellowship. Breakfast will be served at 8:30, followed by a program called "Lenten Conversations" with Rev. Margie Pride, pastor of Memorial Boulevard Christian Church, as our guest speaker. Together, we will explore some possibilities of what it might look like to partner with MBCC and, specifically, help with remodeling of their church building. Please mark your calendar to join us. You will be glad you did (as will we). See Tim Vincent for additional information.

Year End Financial Update

Financial results for 2014 are finalized and we ended up the year with a deficit of (\$20,020), with many, many changes and unexpected expenses taking place. Our 2014 budget called for a deficit of (\$15,835) and \$13,500 in funds had been set aside to cover most of the deficit. The balance of the final deficit was covered through our accumulated reserve funds.

Leon Whitney
Chairman, Facilities and Finance

Notes of Thanks from CCC Members

Thank you to Laura McDurmont for organizing the recent cleanup of my yard done by CCC youth and adults on a cold Saturday in January. I also want to thank Jess Newton for getting more than 14 yard waste bags to my curb for pickup. I appreciate all those who participated in the yard work cleanup day.

Sincerely,
Ruth Morrison

I cannot thank my church family enough for the love, support and prayers through my dad's last weeks. I truly appreciate the comfort, friendship and fellowship that was given to him during the past few years. He really loved his adopted church and felt very much a part of the family. He would have enjoyed being present at the wonderful luncheon following the funeral - the food, the decorations and the display of memorabilia were all very impressive. We owe a special thanks to everyone who helped make a very difficult day much brighter. I've had many compliments from friends and family who attended about the presentation and the friendliness that they experienced. I also want to thank the Stable Ministry. It was extremely helpful to be able to donate the furnishings that we couldn't use. What a blessing, we are truly grateful. Thank you.

The Medlock/Gill Family

Worship Leader Schedule

	March 1	March 8	March 15
Worship Leader	Mike Grogan	Youth Sunday	Ted Herman
Narthex Greeter	8:30 Rich & Liz Dupuis 10:45 Deb Shabel & Brenda Richardson	Youth Sunday	8:30 John & Kristina Houghton 10:45 Tracey Hammack
Children's Moment	8:30 Rev. Thorne 10:45 Rev. Thorne	Youth Sunday	8:30 Shane Matzen 10:45 Wendy Finch
Youth Scripture Reader—10:45			
Elder	8:30 Ron Newton 10:45 Cindy Herman	Youth Sunday	8:30 Rob Brown 10:45 Jess Newton
Deacons 8:30	Mike Meusey Bill Konrad Jaynee Konrad Tim Vincent Shane Matzen Max Meusey	Youth Sunday	Mike Meusey Bill Konrad Jaynee Konrad Tim Vincent Shane Matzen Max Meusey
Deacons 10:45	Mel Fairchild John Schlueter Les Swaney Sandy Schleusner Jessica Schlueter Anna Fairchild Katey Fairchild	Youth Sunday	Mel Fairchild John Schlueter Les Swaney Sandy Schleusner Jessica Schlueter Anna Fairchild Katey Fairchild

Daylight Savings Time Reminder

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th.



Stable Ministry Corner

When the Stable gets used bottles of perfume or cologne we give them to the St. Louis Zoo. They use them for big cats and primates to stimulate their senses.

ELDERS' CHILI COOKOFF and PIE AUCTION

The Votes are in and ---

Brian Degitz-Fries is CCC's new Elder's Chili Cook-off Champ. Congratulations Brian! And **Linda Smith** was awarded the runner-up trophy. This is the first year that they entered the competition!

And a big **Thank You** to the 209 people who came and supported this fun evening of food and fellowship, on February 8th in the WFLC. Our thanks also go to the other contestants: **Pam Welker, Debbie Gray, Les & Julie Swaney, Janet Staicoff, LeaAnn Ravens, Megan Compton and Sandy Schleusner**. We also want to thank the people who made the wonderful soups and all the baked goods that were auctioned off! Thanks to all who helped make this a very special evening.

The admission tickets and the baked goods auction grossed over \$1,500, which will go to Ferguson Youth Initiative, BackStoppers, and the Elder's Discretionary Fund. The Elders appreciate and thank everyone for their participation and support!

CCC Elders



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SEGA

The February edition of the SEGA Connection newsletter is available on the homepage of the SEGA website, www.segadisciples.org

Mid America

The January Quarterly issue of the Mid-America Messenger is available at www.mid-americadisciples.org

2015 General Assembly is coming!

The 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is set for July 18-22 in Columbus, Ohio and planning is well underway. If you've been before, you'll find a bounty of new worship experiences and learning tracks. If you've never been, there is a website with a wealth of information, including a page just for you. Go to ga.disciples.org to see the schedule, workshop offerings and register online. See you in Columbus!

CCC Staff:

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Pastor
Rev. Darla Goodrich, Associate Pastor
Beth Bean, Interim Office Manager

The Vital Spark is a bi-monthly publication of Community Christian Church. Our purpose is to encourage fellowship among CCC members and visitors and to announce upcoming events and activities.

All articles are edited for continuity, content and space as needed. Please see submission deadlines on page one. Thank you.