



The Vital Spark

May 26, 2015



A message from our Senior Pastor, Jacob Thorne

In today's article, I want to share with you some of my thoughts and

responses to the results of a recent Pew Research survey claiming there is a sharp decrease in the number of individuals in the United States who self-identify as Christians. The press, always spinning a story, has made it sound like Christianity is on a downward spiral in the United States. Yet there are a number of ways to understand and approach the results of the survey that are not being discussed.

For example:

1. While more people might identify as "nones," this does not necessarily mean individuals are less religious or spiritual than before. In today's culture, many come to a relationship with God through a variety of different ways and experiences. Identifying with one single avenue of faith or denomination might seem too limiting.
2. Not all churches in the United States are failing. At CCC, we have a number of engaging ministries both within and beyond the walls of the church. Numerical statistics do not provide the narrative of what is happening not only at CCC, but also at thousands of churches across the nation.
3. Headlines are designed to capture attention and sell. God is not going to die or disappear just because some mainline denominations are realigning and look different than they did fifty years ago.
4. When someone goes through a major life crisis the church is there for support. I read the other day that when your mother dies your yoga teacher doesn't bring a casserole dish. The church, when functioning at its best, provides hope and healing.

However, despite what I have written above, I also think that in some ways the more vocal interpretations of the Pew Research surveys (that the church is rapidly shrinking) are correct. Here's why:

1. The mainline church has failed to connect with today's culture. We—and I use this term broadly for all churches—have kept the same organizational structure for more than fifty years. Very few blue chip companies last more than fifty years without a complete restructure. The same is true for denominational bodies and churches.
2. Our denomination—and now I am speaking specifically—has yet to create a compelling vision for the future. One reaction to this is that the relationship between the individual church and the general church is rapidly weakening. Most congregants, and perhaps all new visitors to the church, are both unaware and indifferent (understandably) to the general church.
3. Our gatherings, such as the upcoming General Assembly, call for resolutions that address the imperfection and inequality of the world in which we live yet, at the same time, limit dialogue and change by suggesting that once a resolution is passed it is just a matter of taking a stand and being courageous.
4. We—and I am writing broadly again—have yet to find a way to have fewer meetings and more hands-on ministry.
5. While some churches are welcoming—and I think CCC is very welcoming and inclusive—many have been hurt by the church. Until we find a way to comfortably talk about our faith in a way that is not patronizing or proselytizing the image of the church will not change.

(Continued on Page 2)

	May 17	May 24
Attendance:		
Sunday School	59	57
Worship		
8:30	120	101
10:45	<u>99</u>	<u>68</u>
	<u>219</u>	<u>169</u>

May 31 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday, May 31
 Do You Hear What I Hear?
 1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Summer Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Faith Learning
10:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday, June 7
 We are Family
 Mark 3: 32-33
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Sunday, June 14
 Out of Control
 Mark 4: 30-32
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Sunday, June 21
 The Calm in the Storm
 Mark 4: 35-41
Rev. Jacob Thorne

Sunday, June 28
 TBD
Rev. Darla Goodrich

Prayer List

Scott Douglass, Jean Burt; Bill Tichacek; Christine Meier; Kathy Bumeter; Ruth Morrison; Faye Compton; Anita Gamble; Brenda Richardson; Paul Shabel; Jo Anne Brown, mother of Steve Brown; Jerome Dupuis, father of Rich Dupuis; Zoe Donsky, family of Sandy Schleusner; Brandon Hamm, friend of Sandy Schleusner; John and Lee Smith, friends of Chris and Gary Meier; Chris and Hugh Berry, mother and father of Christine Meier; Bill Sullivan, father of Tracey Hammack and Kelly Northcott; Emily Linnemann, daughter of a co-worker of Megan Compton; Frank Heimann, father of a friend of Steve Brown; Molly Rasmussen, sister of Megan Compton; Clara Belle Degitz, aunt of Ric Degitz; Gary Welch, friend of Michael Richardson; Gen Walker, friend of Joan Tichacek; Bruce and Renee Gamble, friends of Mike and Carol Cook; Shari and Mike Radloff, daughter and son-in-law of Leon and Linda Whitney; Tom Kinder, friend of Pennie Anderson; Mickey Plank, friend of Pennie Anderson.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Seymour, Rawls and Wilson families upon the passing of dear husband, father and grandfather, Robert (Bob) Seymour. A memorial service will be held at CCC on June 2nd at 11 a.m., preceded by a visitation from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Please keep the Mohr and Keen families in your prayers. Matt Mohr, husband of Lindsay Mohr and son-in-law of Margo Keen, lost his mother, Sharon Mohr, on May23rd.

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.

A message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Jacob Thorne (continued from Page 1)

Despite all of the pros and cons, I still believe in the local church and that only through local faith based communities can real change ever come about.

I am thankful to lead a community that cares about its community. Community is both our namesake and DNA.

Thanks be to God,

Jacob

With Thanks...

Dear Community Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I plan to use it to buy books. I greatly appreciate your support as I begin college.

Sincerely,
Casi Corona

CCC Friends,

Thank you so much for the many cards and calls I received since my recent foot surgery. I am looking forward to being fully recovered in June.

Sincerely,
John Strebler

CCC Family,

Thank you so much for the \$250 check. This card does not have enough space on it to express my gratitude towards all that you have done for me throughout my life. I am blessed to say that I am a part of the Disciples of Christ.

Thanks Again,
Jack Matzen

Thank you to all the well wishers, prayers and lovely cards sent my way during my knee surgeries and my back surgery. It has been a rough road, but knowing so many people were praying for me helped me get through the dark days.

Thanks also to Jacob, Darla and Michael for offering support and prayers for my granddaughter. It meant a lot to Morgan, Michelle and me.

Sincerely,
Anita Gamble

DMM Quarterly Breakfast and Meeting

Calling all men to attend the next Disciples Men's Ministry breakfast and meeting, to be held on Saturday, June 13, in the WFLC. Coffee and fellowship begins at 8:00 a.m., with a great food spread to begin at 8:30 a.m. After dining on breakfast goodies, we will have our quarterly meeting where we will discuss upcoming DMM (and CCC) activities. Be sure to put this on your calendar and don't miss out. See Tim Vincent with any questions.

Worship Leaders and Mowing Schedule

***** Summer Worship Schedule begins on Sunday June 7 *****

Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m.; Faith Learning at 9:00 a.m.

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Narthex Greeter	Rich and Liz Dupuis	Katherine Prescott and Ruth Morrison	John and Kristina Houghton	Jess and Linda Newton
Children's Moment	Doug Hoover	Rev. Thorne	Susan McGehee	Rev. Goodrich
Elder	Grant Chapman	Ron Newton	Flip Davis	Rob Brown
Deacons	Mike Meusey Tim Vincent Mel Fairchild Katey Fairchild Anna Fairchild John Schlueter	Tim Vincent Shane Matzen Sandy Schleusner Les Swaney John Schlueter Jessica Schlueter	Shane Matzen Mike Meusey Sandy Schleusner Les Swaney Mel Fairchild Anna Fairchild	Mike Meusey Sandy Schleusner Les Swaney Mel Fairchild John Schlueter Jessica Schlueter
Mowing Team Section A Section B Section C	Mike Grogan Dan Seymour Lee McDurmott (to be mowed by 6/6)	Mel Fairchild Les Swaney Jim Bube (to be mowed by 6/13)	Mike Hartman Ron Smith Jess Newton (to be mowed by 6/20)	John Houghton Bill Turnbough Ron Newton (to be mowed by 6/ 27)

Thank You from Stable Ministry...

When you get a greeting card in the May mail, it is like a Spark of Warmth that you are being thought of. This is the same with this May Stable Sale Wrap Up. We want to take this opportunity to tell you, our CCC partners, that we had a successful sale, even beating our last May's total by a couple hundred. This made us smile and we thank you for the support you gave us through many volunteer hours, food, donations and sales.

We've pledged a large amount to help fund the WFLC mortgage and to support non profit service agencies and SEGA. The Stable Sale is a difference maker, but we do need your Help as the August Sale is already on the calendar. Bring in your useable clean donations, start collecting now! Teens needing service hours for summer projects are welcome as we need many more volunteers to aid this effort. We had seven Boy Scouts help with Clean Up this time. Rev. Darla and Rev. Jacob were also there to pitch in.

Workdays are every Monday and Thursday in WFLC and we'd love to add your name to our worker list. There are always smiles of fellowship to share at lunch. Join up and come August that sale's Thank You will be personalized. To CCC... a Spark of Joy for a completed sale, accomplished with a Lot of Hard Work!

Thanks for your Support!

Guys and Gals of the STABLE MINISTRY

CCC Blood Drive

The need for blood goes up significantly during the summer months. We hope you will consider a life-saving donation during our next blood drive on June 7th between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Contact Rich and Liz Dupuis with questions at 636-256-3686.

Book Discussion Group

Join us on June 15th to discuss Mildred Pierce by James M. Cain. We will meet at the home of Brenda Richardson, 805 Hanna Court in Manchester, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Brenda Richardson at 636-386-5279 with questions.

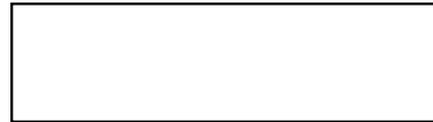
Stable Ministry Corner



In the 1980's Disciple Women held a Craft Bazaar each year. In 1992 for the first time, we also held a "garage sale" in conjunction with the Craft Bazaar. It was held in the room that is now our Library and the following year expanded into the classroom next door. After a few more years, Craft Bazaars went out of fashion so we decided to just have the "garage sale." Over the years, that small sale has become the Stable Sale we have today. Margaret Periera headed up that first effort; and after 22 years, is still going strong!



623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester MO 63021
Phone: 636-394-2772
Fax: 636-394-1886
e-mail: office@disciplesforchrist.org
www.disciplesforchrist.org



There will be only one Vital Spark in June.

The publication deadline is June 22 for the issue to be published on June 23.

Dinner for Eight - the next outing will be on **Saturday, June 13th** with choices of Circle 7 Grill or Charro Mexican for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in live music after dinner is invited to The Haus, to listen and dance to, The Stereo Typicals, (our own Steve Staicoff is a band member) from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex starting this Sunday.

The location for the **Disciples Women's End-of-Year Potluck has been changed back to the home of Karen Grogan, 824 Timber Glen Lane, Ballwin.** It will be at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2nd.** All women of CCC are welcome and invited to attend. You are encouraged to sign up at the Welcome Center and indicate if you can bring a main dish, a salad, a side dish or a dessert for the potluck. Our meal will be followed by a brief business meeting and the installation of officers and Circle leaders for the 2015-2016 program year. Directions to Karen's home will be in the Narthex this Sunday.

As you bring out summer clothes for your children or perhaps purchase something new, the Stable is always looking for children's clothing hangers. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

CCC Staff:

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

The Vital Spark is a 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.