

THE VITAL SPARK



Publication of Community Christian Church

September 2017

A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Family,

This Sunday we are launching an important small-group Bible study. Our goal is to have at least 100 participants. **Your participation is vitally important.** Over a period of six separate study sessions, with no more than two hours spent at each session, we will, together, with trained facilitators from CCC, share our insights and dreams for the future of our church. These sessions are designed to be a sacred time with one another, helping us to see most clearly the ways in which God is leading us in ministry. From the information gathered in these sessions, we will eventually create and implement a new mission and vision statement. If you want to help shape the future of CCC, please take the time to participate in this process. A sign-up sheet with a variety of different times and places is available in this newsletter and will also be available this Sunday at church.

Please also be in prayer for our city, our nation, and our world. In Sunday's worship, we will look at how the storms of life—both literally and metaphorically—shape our understanding of God, the world, and one another. One of the great characteristics of our denomination is our willingness to see the truth that exists on both sides of any theological storm or conundrum. In a time and place where divisions appear to be drawing even firmer lines in the sand, I am thankful that we, at CCC, are able to find ways, on both sides of the aisle, to worship with one another, pray with one another, serve with one another, and grow with one another.

Standing in the middle, or in the eye of a storm, is not always a safe place to be. When Jesus stood in the middle, between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, both sides, by the end of the day, called for his crucifixion. The middle is not a place of non-commitment to either side, but a place where two sides are held together by what is shared with one another, chiefly, our recognition that we are all created by God and are children of God.

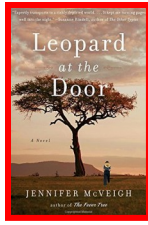
As always, I am thankful to serve as your pastor and for this journey we take with one another.

Blessings,

Jacob

CCC Book Discussion Group

Discussion of the book *Leopard at the Door* by Jennifer McVeigh will take place on October 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you have questions.



Youth Lock-In

The 2017 Fall Youth Lock-in takes place this Friday, September 22nd, 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, September 23rd, 7:00 a.m.

Youth are asked to bring a snack to share along with an appetite for fun, friends and fellowship! The evening will include youth led activities, discussion, games and worship.

Youth are welcome to bring friends. Guests are required to present a signed permission form with medical information for admittance.

Youth will not meet for youth group this Sunday afternoon.

We will return to our Sunday gathering October 1st, at 4:00 p.m.

CCC volunteers and staff are looking forward to a wonderful experience and hope all available youth will join in the fun.



Senior Citizen Luncheon

We are looking forward to the October Senior Citizen's lunch to be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex. Our theme will be "*Harvest Moon*." If you would like to provide a food item for a future lunch please contact Beth Bean in the church office.



"Apples" was the theme in September.

Did you know there are over
7,500 varieties of apples grown
throughout the world?

God's Kids Choir

God's Kids Choir (GKC), for children in kindergarten to 5th grade, practices are taking place every week on Sunday's at 4:00 p.m. here at CCC in the choir room.

The fall party will be on October 15th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. following regular practice. In addition, they will be singing during worship on Sunday, October 29th.

Please contact Mark Monroe or call the church office if you have any questions.

Mission First Update

The Mission First team met on September 12th to discuss and plan all the wonderful mission happenings at our church!

Filling clean up buckets for Church World Service has been a big success and something that we hope to continue in the future.

We are continuing our relationship with neighbor Hanna Woods Elementary School by filling bags with healthy foods for 10 families every other month. Please use the following link

(<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448a8ad2da7fe3-summer>)

for the sign up to help with this mission, or contact Wendy Finch or Tracey Hammack.



Your donations helped us fill
over 25 buckets.

We are so excited that 18 members of CCC will be volunteering at Columbia Elementary School in St. Louis. They will be tutoring students in the 3rd-5th grade with math and reading. The last training session will be on September 30th, so if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity contact Janet Staicoff to obtain a volunteer packet to be turned in prior to the training.

Four members of CCC are now volunteering at Epworth Children's Home, visiting monthly with a group of teenage girls. They do crafts, have snacks, share books and spend time with the girls who are unable to leave the campus.

Lastly, we are busy planning our all church Mission Day on Sunday, October 22nd. Some of the groups we will be serving that day are the Ronald McDonald House, Lafayette Industries, Feed My Starving Children, and Angel Arms. We are also planning to bake cookies and make cards to deliver to homebound church members, creating hygiene kits for Church World Service and more. There will be something for everyone plus dinner together that evening! If you are interested in helping to plan any of our service projects contact Tracey Hammack at t.hammack@sbcglobal.net or (636) 227-9835.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and we would love for anyone that has an interest in mission to join us!

Stable Sale

October 3rd to October 7th will be the last Stable Sale of 2017. Preparation will start this Sunday, September 24th after church. We also could use a lot of help next week, Monday through Saturday, between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. This is an all church affair. We have sit down jobs and work that needs no training. All we ask is for you to volunteer some time for fun and service alongside other CCC friends. We hope you will come join us and support the Stable Ministry of Community Christian Church.

Thank you notes

Dear CCC,
Thank you so much for the visits, food, cards, calls and especially your prayers after my knee replacement surgery. The warmth, kindness and concern shown to us are heart-warming and truly appreciated.
Love, Carol Cook (and Mike)

Thank you to Mr. H.O. Nelson for the generous scholarship that I was awarded on behalf of your wife Beulah. I appreciate this so much and am honored to receive it. I will put it to good use for my education.
Sincerely,
Anna Fairchild

Thank you all for your support in recent weeks with cards and calls of support over the loss of Julie's aunt, Sister Mary Joan Meyer and Les's father, Gene. Some of you even came to the funerals and we were touched by the love and support.
Much appreciated,
Les and Julie Swaney

Thank you Elders of CCC for hosting the coffee fellowship time following worship every Sunday this summer. We are also grateful for those who have hosted so far this fall, including Lisa Belue, Vickie Minden and Elizabeth Stanley.

Memorial Boulevard CC Celebration

All are welcome to attend the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Boulevard Christian Church Building.
Sunday, October 22nd
Special Worship Service at 11 a.m.
Celebration to follow worship

Dream Team Small Group Sign-up

Leader: Dean Grubbs at Gambrill Gardens, day of week and time to be determined.

Name

Leader: Diane Hall at her home, Thursday's at 6pm

Name

Leader: Margo Keen at CCC, Sunday's at 11:30am

Name

Leader: Loyalty/Don Miller at CCC, Wednesday's at 6:30pm

Name

Leader: Vickie Minden at CCC, 2 Saturday's from 10am to 4pm

Name

Leader: Wanda Morgenthaler at CCC, Wednesday's at 2:00pm

Name

Leader: Norman Pereira at CCC, Tuesday's at 6:30pm

Name

Leader: Steve Staicoff at CCC, Sunday's at 11:30am

Name

Leader: Connie Watkins at CCC, Sunday's at 11:30am

Name

Leader: Diane Hall at Meramec Bluffs, date/time TBD

Name

I/we will need childcare _____ Yes

(You may return signed form to the basket in the Narthex on Sunday. We will also include this form in the Sunday bulletin.)

Women's Fellowship

Priscilla Ladies Group— will meet on October 10th in the CCC library at 7:00 p.m. for study and fellowship. Questions may be directed to Mitzie Bryant.

Rebecca Ladies Group— will meet on October 17th in the CCC library at 9:30 a.m. for study and fellowship. Contact Diane Hall with questions.

Both groups will collect hygiene products to be donated to Circle of Concern as their October service project.

Blood Drive Report

The Church Blood Drive held on September 10th yielded 17 pints of blood. Thank you to all of you who came to help make this blood drive a success. Your gift of life can help many people in need.

Our next All-Church Blood Drive is scheduled for December 3.



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