

# THE VITAL SPARK



Publication of Community Christian Church

October 2017

## A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Family,

This past Monday morning I volunteered for the first time, along with Linda Helm and Diane Hall, at Columbia Public Elementary School, located just a few blocks from the corner of North Grand and St. Louis Avenue in the City of St. Louis. After two hours of mostly observing in a first grade classroom, somewhat helping, and certainly admiring the strength and determination of the teachers, I left feeling tired and thankful. I am so proud that we, as a church, have made the decision to partner with Columbia. I believe that this new relationship is a symbolic way of us saying, as a whole, all children are children of God, and all are precious in His sight—young or old, black or white.

I am also proud of the many hours of service and volunteer work that went into the efforts for a day of mission and service this past Sunday. Thank you to the Mission First team for all of the planning that make such opportunities possible. As we gathered Sunday night around the tables, sharing the stories of the day, I felt honored—honored to serve a church where ministry beyond the walls of our building is just as important as ministry within the walls.

And finally, I want to also mention how proud I am of our dream team leaders and small groups. Almost seventy individuals are taking the time to dream with one another, pray with one another, and clarify with one another the ways in which God is guiding and pushing Community Christian Church. If the average group meets two hours, for a total of six sessions, we have more than 840 hours worth of collected thoughts and wisdom.

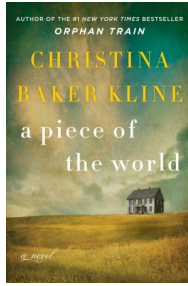
In case it isn't clear, let me write the words: Community Christian Church, you make me proud. We are a good church, with a big heart, and a large desire to make the world a better place. This dream of new relationships, new service projects, and new visions all stems from the love and grace that flows from God.

Thanks be to God,

Jacob

## CCC Book Discussion Group

Discussion of the book *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline will take place on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you have questions.



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## Meet Susan McGehee, Member of the CLT

Susan McGehee is a long time CCC member (1971) and has been married to Jeff McGehee for 26 years. They have three sons (Josh, Dylan, Jordan) who have been at CCC all their lives. Susan was a Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher for Parkway School District after graduating from college and then was a stay at home mom. Now she teaches Pre-K at Salem Methodist Pre-school. Susan has also been teaching Sunday School at CCC for nearly 20 years.

Susan enjoys being with family, going to/watching sporting events (Go Blues! Go Cardinals!), painting and scrapbooking. Susan appreciates the love of her church family and feels a call to represent and be a voice for children.

Susan joined the Core Leadership Team on September 1 and we look forward to her participation in helping to lead CCC into the future.

## Senior Citizen Luncheon

We are looking forward to the next Senior Citizen's lunch to be held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex. Our theme will be the "Radio Broadcasting Debut of NBC and other NBC History." If you would like to provide a food item for a future lunch please contact Beth Bean in the church office.

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## A Few Pictures from Service Sunday



Cake decorating for the evening meal celebration



Hygiene kits for Church World Service



Cards and snacks for CCC friends



Assembly of nutrition bags for Feed My Starving Children



Relaxing while food is cooking for guests at Ronald McDonald House.

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## Save the Date for Dinner for Eight (or more)

The November dinner outing will be on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The time and location are yet to be determined. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex once details for the evening are worked out.

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## Youth Dream Team Group

The final Dream Team meeting for youth and their families will be this Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> here at CCC starting at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a snack to share with the group. The meeting will conclude with a group outing from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Flying Spider Extreme Air Sports Trampoline Park.

## All Church Thanksgiving Feast

It's hard to believe! Our largest annual church family gathering, the Thanksgiving Feast, is right around the corner! It will be on Sunday, November 19th in the WFLC from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This has become an exciting tradition where we can all gather together with our guest family members and church family.

We're looking for church event photos you may have taken over the last year for our 2017 Reflections Power Point Presentation. To allow time for assembling the presentation, please email or turn in photos to the office ([office@disciplesforchrist.org](mailto:office@disciplesforchrist.org)) by Friday, November 3.

The Fellowship budget will partially subsidize the meal cost so that tickets will be as follows: Adults and children 12 years and older, \$9.00; children 5 – 11 years old, \$5.00; children ages 4 and under, no charge. Additionally, we're happy to say that there are funds set aside to be supervised by Rev. Thorne for confidential financial assistance for those guests who can't afford the whole cost for their family. We will sell tickets before and after services on October 29, November 5 and November 12 and will accept checks or cash. We will do our customary assigned seating so our form will ask for names and ages of all attendees.



Please note that all food, including the gravy, will be gluten free except the rolls, dressing and dessert! If you would like to bring gluten free rolls, dressing or dessert, we will gladly hold those items in the kitchen for you to serve yourself when going through the food line. Also, all food is garlic free.

As we have for the past eight years, the Fellowship Team invites you to share from your bounty by bringing canned goods for the Circle of Concern Food Pantry when you come to the Thanksgiving Feast. We will have the Circle of Concern grocery cart in the WFLC foyer to receive your gifts.

We hope our whole church family will join in fellowship at this time and give thanks to God together for our many blessings as individuals, as families, and as Community Christian Church.

We hope to see everyone there!

The Fellowship Team

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## Service Goes Way Beyond Service Sunday

As you know, the Stable just finished its last sale of 2017, but you may not know what else it did! On Saturday afternoon, just after the sale to the public ended, 222 clients from Circle of Concern came and were able to get what they needed or wanted free of charge. Many of them said how grateful they were to have this opportunity. The items that were left after the sale were given to Church on the Street (in the City of St. Louis), Isaiah 58, Compton Heights Christian Church, Memorial Boulevard Christian Church, St. Cronin Parish, St. Mary's Hospital Neonatal Unit, Disabled American Veterans and Salvation Army.



But the service of the Stable continues beyond the sales. Almost weekly some need arises. For example, last week clothes were needed for three girls ages 3, 4, and 8. It is a divorce case with an abusive parent who illegally took the children and now the father is trying to get custody. Each child received a coat, jacket, sweater, hoodie, robe, 2 pairs of PJ's and 10 outfits.

Service and the Stable go hand in hand.

## Thank you notes

To everyone at Community Christian Church,  
Thank you so much for the generous donations of snacks for our students at Ballwin Elementary School! A snack may not seem like a big deal, but for some of our kiddos that may not have them otherwise, it is! You all, through your generosity were able to provide enough snacks to get us through most of the school year and it is truly appreciated!

Many thanks,  
The Staff of Ballwin Elementary

Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you all for the many heartfelt cards and letters of sympathy, caring and understanding regarding the passing of my mother, Irene. Community Christian Church is truly a family when it comes to expressing concern for those in need.

Thanks, as well, for the ladies who brought food to our house and helped set up for the reception in Mom's honor. We are blessed to have you all in our lives!

Jerry and Linda Medlock

To my church family,  
I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers food and beautiful cards. It is comforting to be part of such a loving family.  
Your sister in Christ,  
Ruth Morrison



## A Note from Facilities and Finance

	YTD Actual as of Sept 30	YTD Budget as of Sept 30
Offering	\$295,533	\$288,475
Other Income	<u>17,551</u>	<u>15,755</u>
Total Income	\$313,084	\$304,230
Expenses	<u>279,876</u>	<u>315,650</u>
Net Income/(Deficit) \$	33,208	(\$ 11,420)

We continue to be blessed with strong giving from our CCC members and friends. Our expenses have been less than expected this year, due mostly to staff changes and a generous grant from the Bridgeton Fund, used to pay the costs of the Agile Church consultants.

In addition to normal giving, you donated \$300 to the Reconciliation Fund and \$1,825 to Week of Compassion. These gifts help address the need for anti-racism/pro-reconciliation and provide financial response and assistance to those affected by the recent hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Through your generous support, the remaining debt of the Wunderlich building is \$379,786.

The amount you give, every single dollar, helps make a difference in our community and world. If you haven't yet, please consider giving electronically this fall by visiting our website, [www.disciplesforchrist.org](http://www.disciplesforchrist.org), and clicking on the "Contribute" tab to set up a recurring payment. Please contact the church office if you encounter any difficulties.

## Women's Fellowship

Priscilla Ladies Group— will meet on November 7th 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 November 14th in the CCC library at 9:30 a.m. for study and fellowship. Contact Diane Hall with questions.

Both groups will collect **new** toys to be donated to Board of Religious Organizations for the November service project.



### Community Christian Church

623 Meramec Station Road  
Manchester, MO 63021

(636) 394-2772  
office@disciplesforchrist.org

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Sr. Pastor  
Rev. LaVetta Hall, Director of  
Children and Youth Ministry

Visit us on the web at  
www.disciplesforchrist.org

Follow us on Facebook  
Community Christian Church

## Disciples Men Breakfast

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, all men (and spouses too!) are invited to attend the quarterly men's breakfast. Coffee and fellowship begins at 8:00 a.m. in the WFLC followed by a hearty breakfast at 8:30. The program for the morning will be shared very soon.

## Hanna Woods Giving Project

We are running low on food items for the Hanna Woods children. Please use the following link below to sign up for needed items. If you would like to make a cash donation, you may give online via the church website or designate a donation amount with a future offering check.

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE