

THE VITAL SPARK



Publication of Community Christian Church

March 2018

A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

Tuesday morning...two early morning pastoral visits at two different hospitals...two different medical conditions...one shared commonality—the thankfulness for the prayers, cards, visits, and friends of Community Christian Church. Our Community practices community.

As we enter into Holy Week, we are reminded of the need to stay connected and be in relationship with one another. One of Jesus' greatest pains on the cross was the pain of abandonment—both by his disciples and by God. This same pain continues today. Study after study shows that even though we are more connected now than ever before—think cell phones, technology and computers—we are also more lonely and isolated than ever before.

One of the primary characteristics of Christian discipleship is simply showing up for one another. What makes the church the church, and what makes the community the community, are the gathered children of God. For sure, there are different methods of gathering individuals together—and all sorts of books, resources, and consultants to help make it happen. But the bottom line stays the same, people have to show up with and for one another.

And what happens when you come to church one Sunday after another, one year after another? The answer: You develop a sense of community.

There will be times when the worship service moves you to tears. There will be times when the conversation with fellow friends leads to a deeper relationship. There will be times when the pastor says something that doesn't sit well or the person sitting next to you supports a movement for something you do not understand. And there will be times when someone will send you a card, give you a call, or let you know that you are kept in their prayers.

All of this, in the midst of the messy and magical, is what it means to show up, practice community, and follow Jesus with one another.

I'm thankful for this Community and the ways we connect with one another and with God.

See you on Palm Sunday,

Jacob

EASTER MORNING ACTIVITIES AT CCC

Disciples Men Hosting Breakfast

An annual tradition will take place once again on Easter morning with a special breakfast prepared by the men of CCC. Serving time will be from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The menu will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage links, biscuits and gravy, potatoes, fruit, pastries, juice, milk and coffee. Love offering will be accepted but is not required. Bring your family and friends to start your celebration of Easter Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt for Children

All children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to participate in an Easter Egg hunt during the Children's Sunday School time at 10:15 a.m.

Youth helpers are needed to hide eggs at 9:30 a.m. and also to help with the egg hunt. Those available should contact Susan McGehee or Rev. Hall in the church office.



Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 29th

POSSIBLE DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT

To the Men of Community Christian Church — the Disciples Men's Ministry Leadership Team will soon present a brief survey to gauge interest in a Men's Retreat this Fall. We would meet in the church on a Friday Evening in October for supper at 6:00 PM. We would then enjoy an ice-breaker activity followed by a work/small group session and adjourn with prayer at 9:30 PM. Breakfast would be served at 8:30 AM on Saturday followed by two, hour long sessions including small groups, with a break in between. Lunch at noon would be followed by a large group meeting to summarize our experience before closing in prayer. The survey would ask you to indicate your interest in the following areas rated on a one to five scale with "one" being not interested, "two" slightly interested, "three" maybe, "four" most likely interested, and "five" COUNT ME IN".

The areas would be:

- 1) Attending (maybe bringing a friend)
- 2) Pre-Retreat Planning and Organizing
- 3) Small group team Leader/Presenter
- 4) Musical Leader
- 5) Set up and/or Clean up.

You can contact Rich Dupuis, Jess Newton, or Dick Hall with any questions.

UPDATES FROM CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The leadership team is hard at work!

- * Doug Hoover is starting to plan our 2nd Annual Pancakes for Pentecost Worship Service—*Reach out to him if you would like to help!*
- * Beth Eckelkamp is working on our next Mission Sunday Let the mission First Team know if you can help!
- * Susan McGehee is instituting wellness guidelines in the nursery —*Watch for the guidelines that will help keep the kiddos healthy!*
- * Rev. Thorne will be reviewing giving patterns for the past few years, looking for insights. *Let Laura McDurmont or Ron Hollon know if you have questions!*
- * Laura McDurmont and Matt Mohr are working to establish the Dream Team—writing our new mission and vision statement. *More to come, keep this group in your prayers as they look at the future of the church.*

Any other questions for the Core Leadership Team, please email Laura McDurmont at laura.mcdurmont@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM FINANCE TEAM

Giving year to date was down \$2,800, in these first two winter months. However, expenses were under budget by \$8,600, resulting in a positive bottom line.

The balance sheet continues to reflect healthy balances in checking accounts, reserves, and some restricted endowment funds.

Full monthly payments on the loan continue and additional gifts are being received to be applied to the principal. Recent loan debt was \$363,793.

Monthly progress will continue to be carefully reviewed throughout the year.

Thanks to Beth Bean for providing the many financial reports which provide a good picture of the church's finances.

Your Finance Team

LADIES SMALL GROUPS

In April, the ladies of Priscilla and Rebecca Small Groups will collect feminine hygiene products and laundry soap for their monthly outreach project. All items collected will be donated to Circle of Concern. Donations may be placed in the marked basket in the hallway by the church office.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

There will be a women's bible study starting Monday March 26th at 1:30 in the library. We will be studying the Book of Daniel and all that is needed is a bible. A study guide will be provided on the 26th. If interested, contact Liz Dupuis.

CONGRATULATIONS MOLLY

Molly has been a Board member and long time volunteer at the Southside Early Childhood Center located on South Jefferson Avenue in the City of St. Louis. In early March she was received a "2018 Champion for Children" award.



CCC Member Molly Duncan

Please extend your congratulations to our "champion" for all she has done and continues to do for so many.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Women's Small Groups,
Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day gift! It was such a nice surprise and I loved getting something from home in the mail.
Sincerely,
Grace Hartman

Dear Disciples Women -
Thank you very much for the gift card to Wal-Mart.

In Rolla, I do not have a lot of places to shop but Wal-Mart is the perfect store for me to buy the basic things I need for the semester so it will be put to good use very soon!

Thank you again for thinking of me while I am away at college and I will see you when I am home for break.

Alec Belue

Dear Women's Fellowship,
Thank you very much for the gift card. Glad to know you are thinking about us college kids while we are away. I will try and spend it wisely!

Best,
Sam Hartman

All Church, Intergenerational Mission Trip to Southern Missouri
June 24th to June 30th

Sign ups and more information will be in the Narthex on Sunday.



ALL CHURCH MISSION DAY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

On **April 22** the Mission First Team invites the entire church to be a part of our Spring All Church Mission Day.

Here's the schedule for the day:

9:00 AM-short worship service at CCC

9:45 AM-? Participate in projects throughout the community.

Our projects for Spring 2018 Mission Day include something for everyone:

Paint 2 interior rooms for residents of a Caring Solutions home in Union, MO

(Lead: Marty Eckelkamp) (12 and older)

BBQ for Epworth Children's Home residents & staff- cook, play board games, yard games

(Lead: Tracey Hammack) (must be 21 and older)

Spring yard cleanup for Angels' Arms Foster Home in Ballwin

(Lead: Jeff/Laurie Clifton)

Outdoor Classroom repair at Hannah Woods Elementary

(Lead: Ted Herman)

Plant a Butterfly Garden here at CCC

(Lead: Molly Duncan)

Decorative art projects in Wunderlich Family Life Center to benefit residents of Big Bend Woods Nursing Home (Lead: Diane Hall and Beth Eckelkamp) (all ages)

Prepare dinner for our All Church Mission Day Dinner celebration

(Lead: Molly Duncan)

5 PM - return to the Wunderlich Family Life Center for a simple meal, sharing and celebration of the day. Look for a more detailed description of each project and **sign up sheets in the Narthex beginning this Sunday OR click on the following link:** <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448a8ad2da7fe3-spring>

Any questions please call Martin Eckelkamp at 314-795-7283.

The Mission First Team: Beth Eckelkamp (CLT Liaison), Ted Herman, Tracey Hammack, Molly Duncan, Martin Eckelkamp (Co-chair) Diane Hall, Janet Staicoff (Co-Chair), Laurie Clifton and Jeff Clifton



CCC BOOK GROUP

Discussion of the book *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai will take place on Monday, April 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you would like more information.

HANNA WOODS FOOD PROJECT

In April we resume our bi-monthly support of Hanna Woods by packing food bags for 9 families in need. You are invited to help us by signing up to bring needed food supplies. To sign up please use the following link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448a8ad2da7fe3-summer>
Cash donations are also welcome and someone else will do the needed shopping for you!

YOUTH ARE ON THE MOVE!

It's officially Spring and the Youth are Springing into Action!

The Youth Group has been on the move for weeks now. Thank you to the congregation for the kind words of encouragement extended to the youth, staff and sponsors regarding Youth Sunday. Under the direction of Laura McDurmont the youth created and led a powerful worship experience for us all. They are keeping the momentum going with upcoming worship participation on April 1st, April 8th and April 15th. You won't want to miss Youth in Action in Worship!



Youth leading worship on March 4th

The youth are also looking forward to participating in Mission Sunday on April 22nd.

Thank You...

This past Sunday, marked the beginning of my Sunday morning presence. I am grateful for the increased hours to include Sunday Mornings with the Community Christian Church family. As we can all attest there's nothing quite like the warmth of community during Sunday morning gatherings. Sunday morning fellowship creates opportunities for me to enhance and strengthen relations with the youth and to cultivate new relationships with the younger children and their families. Thank you to the leadership and congregation for your ongoing support as together we lovingly embrace and nurture our children and youth through vibrant education ministries.

Rev. La'Vetta J. Ross-Hall

Community Christian Church

623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

(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