

September
2018

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear CCC Friends and Family,

As I write this letter, and look out the window of my home office, I can see the leaves of some of the trees beginning to turn. Trees never cease to amaze me.

I recently came across a novel called “The Overstory,” by mistake. This rather lengthy book, by the author Richard Powers, was sitting on my parents’ coffee table. After reading the first few pages, and becoming immersed in the field of environmental fiction (a new genre to me), I was convinced that I was reading a writer who belongs in the same ranks as Herman Melville and other great American writers.

Though he is not as well known, Richard Powers, through the lives of nine major characters, paints the canopy of America’s landscape in past, present, and future. The heroes of the story are not the humans, but the trees. The trees are in constant conversation and communication with one another. Trees can warn one another about potential disaster, disease or decay. Trees are rooted together underneath the soil, intertwining with one another, and fighting their greatest opponent (humankind). When one tree is cut down, other trees mourn and are weakened.

Powers is a master at personification. And while “The Overstory” is a novel about trees, it is also a novel about how to live.

This fall, while we are not going to have a sermon series on trees, we will, during the month of October, think about the ways in which we live with one another, both individually and as a community. We’ll spend several Sundays talking about money (and what role money plays in our life). And at the end of the month, we’ll have a small celebration recognizing those who have given to our newly formed legacy endowment.

I am proud of you, Community. Several individuals and families, after listening to the costs we incur as a faith community, made a donation “above and beyond” their normal levels of giving. For this, I give thanks. It is an honor to serve a church where the giving of gifts can be discussed freely, faithfully, and without fear.

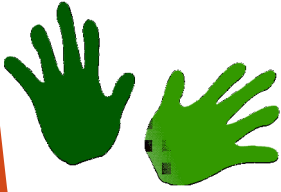
See you Sunday!

Blessings,

Jacob

Youth Events

Lock –in and Food Pack Event



On **October 12**, help turn hunger into hope with your own two hands! All youth are invited to participate in the **Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack event**. This event is worth 2 service hours and is an event we look forward to every year. Following the food pack we will reward our hard work with a **lock-in** at the church. Here are the details:

Meet at the church (main building) at 6:30 pm. We will carpool to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Please note that **NO JEWELRY** is allowed in the packing room.

Following the food pack, we will carpool back to the church. The lock-in will take place in the main church building (Wunderlich will be set-up for the stable sale).

Please bring a snack to share at the lock-in.

All youth **MUST bring a signed permission slip to attend**. These can be found on the church website or by contacting the church office.

Please **RSVP** to the church office or Heather Monroe **for the food pack event by September 23**.

If you are unable to help with the food pack and you are attending the **lock-in only**, please RSVP by **October 11**.

The lock-in will end promptly at **7:00 am** Saturday morning.

Visit and Bonfire at Eckert's Farm



ALL YOUTH and THEIR FAMILIES are invited to an evening of fun at **Eckert's Millstadt Farm on Saturday October 20!**

Admission to the farm is \$13 per person and includes many activities such as a corn maze, carnival rides, a jumping pillow, and a 70 foot underground slide. Funds are available to anyone who needs help with the cost of admission (contact the church office).

We will meet at the farm (let Heather Monroe know if you need a ride). The address is: **2719 Eckert Orchard Lane, Millstadt, IL 62260.**

A Bonfire site has been reserved (behind the Grand Stage) from 6-10 pm so bring hotdogs and marshmallows to roast! A blanket is recommended as we will be sitting on hay bales. Feel free to arrive as early as you like to enjoy your visit to the farm, your admission is good for the entire day.

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

Adult Ministry Pig Roast

Attention ALL adults!!!! Adult Discipleship Ministry is sponsoring a Pig Roast on September 22 from 3 p.m. to ?. Be ready for lotsa fun and games --- and food! The Morgenthaler's and the Dupuis' will be hosting so give them a call to RSVP by September 18, or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Directions to the Morgenthaler's are on the back of the invitation in the Narthex.

Please sign up to bring along an appetizer, vegetable, salad or dessert and to let us know if you need the provided babysitter at CCC for the kiddos.

Iced Tea and Lemonade will be provided or bring your own drinks. We're asking each person to pitch in \$5 toward the cost of the pig and charcoal. Please bring lawn chairs. We'll have Washers, 2x4 Jenga, Hillbilly Golf, Croquet and Backyard Kerplunk! Bring your favorite yard game too, if you'd like.

We hope to see you there!

September Book Group

The CCC book group will meet on September 17th for discussion of the book *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. All are invited to attend at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library. Contact Brenda Richardson if you have any questions.

Red Cross Blood Drive



Can any of you imagine having a child like Mae, and NOT have the available blood supply? Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion. 11-year-old Mae needs to receive a blood transfusion every 21 days to stay healthy and happy. She shares a special bond with her brothers who donate regularly to help her and others who are in need of lifesaving blood.

Please plan to donate your lifesaving gift at our church blood drive September 23rd. Sign up on this Sunday's bulletin attendance sheet or log onto www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: CommChristianCh.

Questions? Contact Liz Dupuis.

Columbia Elementary School Supply Needs

It's not too late to support Columbia Elementary School by donating items that are in short supply. Those include packages of pencils and pens, hand sanitizer (10 ounce or larger) and large containers of Clorox wipes. Please bring your donations on Sunday and place in the box marked "Columbia Elementary School" found in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your support.

Hanna Woods Food Donations

Baskets are located in the Narthex for your donations of food items for the families we support at Hanna Woods Elementary School, just a short distance from CCC. The healthy food options that are especially helpful on days when school is not in session include:

*Peanut butter/jelly

*Canned fruit and vegetables

*Snack crackers/granola bars

*Individually packaged fruit cups/applesauce cups

*Juice boxes

Joys to Celebrate

We are excited to have welcomed several individuals and families into our congregation in recent weeks.

- ◇ Eric Schoonover Family
- ◇ Delores and Norman Constable
- ◇ Jan Pritchard
- ◇ Victor Alm Family
- ◇ Mark and Jackie Dwyer

We celebrate the birth on September 2nd of Cole Robert Hallen, the third child of Lisa Skaggs Hallen and her husband Kevin Hallen. Proud grandparents are CCC's Darlene and Bill Skaggs.

Todd Painter joined our CCC music ministry staff on August 26th. We are thrilled to have him playing the piano and organ for us during worship.

Important Dates

There are many activities coming up that we hope you will put on your calendar right away. They include:

- **October 15th at 7:00 p.m.** - Healthy Living for the Brain and Body, presentation by CCC Member Cheryl Kinney, representative from the St. Louis Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. This program will be held in the CCC Library.
- **October 14** - Minister Appreciation Sunday with coffee fellowship in the Narthex after worship.
- **October 15th to October 28th** - 2019 Stewardship Campaign and celebration.
- **October 28th at 1:30 p.m.** - 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's with team members from CCC. Walk activities will be held at the Enterprise Center in downtown St. Louis. More information to come about signing up for the walk and making donations in support of the CCC Team (Disciples for Hope).
- **November 1 and December 6 at 11:30 a.m.** - Senior Citizen Luncheon in CCC Narthex
- **November 4th at 9:00 a.m.** - Service Sunday. Worship in the sanctuary from 9:00 to 9:30 followed by various service projects here at CCC and out in the community.

Open and Affirming Events

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG

Celebrating Diversity thru Storytelling and Song!

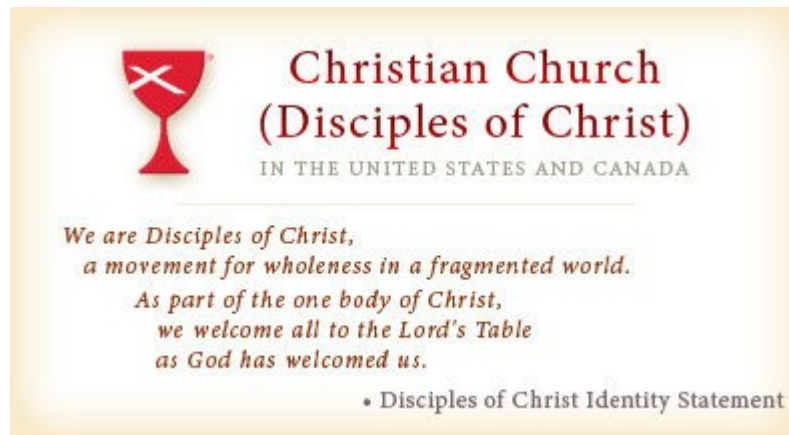
8:30 am in the Narthex members of CCC will share inspiring stories of challenges they have faced in their faith journey, and we will distribute a book of these stories.

Breakfast will be provided!!

10:00 am service in the Sanctuary with music provided by members of the Metropolitan Church of Greater St. Louis Choir.

They will lead us in song as well as provide special music!!

Please join us on September 23!



VIDEO PRESENTATION THIS SUNDAY

All are invited to the CCC library at 9:00 a.m. this Sunday to watch

"Voices of Witness: Out of the Box",

a documentary that gives voice to transgender people of faith.

Please join us.

Stable Sale

Volunteer Mission

It is in a Stable Jesus is said to have been born; it is in that space we The Stable at CCC try to carry on his mission. Coming up is the third and last sale of 2018. Set up starts after church Sunday Sept 30 and continues each day through Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This is also our last call for sale volunteers. If you missed the other events, we can still use you. Yes, YOU! This all church mission could be an adventure In fellowship, so please set your smart phone to remind you to join us. All are welcome, see ya then!! The Stable Ministry

Food for Stable Workers

Check out the Food Poster in the Narthex for the coming Fall Stable Sale. This is your last opportunity in 2018 to sign up to donate your favorite dish and help feed the volunteer workers. Your effort to help is REALLY appreciated!

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Minister
Beth Bean, Office Manager
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021
636.394.2772 ph
office@disciplesforchrist.org email
www.disciplesforchrist.org