

March  
2019

# The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community Family,

I write with good news! This past Monday I attended a meeting with the planning and zoning commission of Manchester. With overwhelming support, and a unanimous vote, our variance request to have an eight foot fence for our new community garden was approved. So...we need to celebrate and begin digging!

This Sunday, following church, please join us for a brief ground breaking ceremony of the garden followed by a St. Patrick's Day party in the Narthex. It seems appropriate to celebrate the garden and St. Patrick's at the same time. For those interested in history, you might recall that St. Patrick was a traveling itinerant preacher. It is said that as he walked, traversing the land between Britain and Ireland, he carried with him a walking stick made of ash. When St. Patrick would stop to preach, he would plant his walking stick in the ground. At the English site now called Aspatria ("ash of Patrick"), St. Patrick preached so fervently, the story goes, that when at last he finished, he couldn't remove the stick—it had sprouted roots and rooted itself into the ground.

I promise not to preach that long on Sunday. But we will celebrate that we have a new way, through our community garden, to dig down deep (literally), claiming, and sharing, the good news, and fruits, of God's creation. I am excited for this new phase of our ministry and look forward to seeing you in the garden. The garden, as made evident by Jesus on his final night on this earth, can be a sacred and holy ground where the grace and comfort of God can be found.

I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Blessings,

Jacob

# Special Pick up Choir

Sunday, March 31st there will be a Pickup choir. We will be singing the popular praise hymn by Hillsong United "What A Beautiful Name." Please plan to join us at 9:40 a.m. in the choir room on Sunday, March 31st for a one time rehearsal before worship. Copies of the song will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, March 24th.

## Stable Spring Fling

Palm Sunday and Easter are coming! The Stable has been working hard preparing Spring outfits for both guys and gals plus we'll have toys for baskets, Easter decorations and cuddly stuffed animals, etc. The Stable has voted to make an unusual sizeable pledge toward WFLC mortgage this year. To accomplish this we need CCCers to come and, as they say, "Buy Local!" This event is March 31st right after the church service, held in the WFLC gym. Save this important one day event on your cell, calendar or try a brain booster-- memory. See ya there!

## Thank You

Ladies of Rebecca and Priscilla Small Groups

Thank you so much for the Target gift card. It is so nice that you think of me while I'm away at school. I'm so excited to use the gift card; it will really come in handy.

Love,

Allie Seymour

Thank you so much for the Walmart gift card. It means so much that you think of us college kids.

Thanks again,

Casi Corona

Thank you so much for the Walmart gift card! It is awesome to know that us college kids still have a church family thinking about us. CCC has supported me for the last 4 years of my college career and although I am graduating, I know that whatever I do and wherever I go, I will always have love and support from my church at home.

Much love,

Andy Hoover

Thank you so much for the gift card. It is very nice that you are thinking of me while I am away at school.

Thanks,

Matt Seymour

# Outreach

## #Courageously Serving

The Mission Team is excited to extend the invitation to take part in our Spring 2019 Mission Sunday activities on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. We have a variety of service projects planned with something for everyone! This spring's projects and leaders are:

Exceptional Equestrians Stable in Union, MO clean-up (all ages welcome!)

Led by Beth Eckelkamp

Manchester Parks clean-up/spruce-up (all ages welcome!)

Led by Ted Herman

Big Bend Woods Nursing Home springtime decorations and Sing-Along (all ages welcome!)

Led by Diane Hall and Janet Staicoff

Festival of Sharing Hygiene kit sorting and packing (see below for items needed)

Led by Jeff and Laurie Clifton

CCC Butterfly Garden and neighborhood distribution of seed packets (all ages welcome!)

Led by Molly Duncan

Caring Solutions painting inside rooms of group home in South County

Led by Marty Eckelkamp

Help with set up for evening dinner

Led by Marty Eckelkamp

We encourage all participants to order a Mission Sunday t-shirt to share our enthusiasm for service. If you don't have a t-shirt yet, you can place your t-shirt order on Sunday in the Narthex (\$7.50/shirt; \$8.50 for 2XL).

Please join your fellow volunteers at the end of the day for a community dinner in the WFLC. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex for each of the projects, for the evening celebration dinner and for t-shirt orders.

## Hygiene Kit Donations

We will be collecting the items listed below for the hygiene kits.

Fluoride toothpaste (6 oz tubes)

Bath-size bar soap

Skin lotion (11-14 oz bottles)

Deodorant

Shampoo (11-14 oz bottles)

Comb or brush

Disposable razors

Washcloths and hand towels

We hope everyone will be able to donate a few items.

Please take note of the specific sizes of the items, so that the kits we assemble will all be the same.

Your donations can be placed in the specially marked box in the Narthex.

Thank you so much!

# Youth Sunday on April 7th

The youth of CCC are hard at work getting ready for their annual Youth Sunday service. Please plan to be with us for worship on April 7th at 9 a.m. (special start time) for this year's service. Their theme is staying present to the moment, not worrying about the past or the future and is sure to have meaningful takeaways for all of us.



## Easter Egg Candy

There will be an Easter Egg hunt for elementary and nursery children on Easter Sunday. The Children's Ministry group would appreciate donations of individually wrapped candy for this special event. A basket is marked in the area across from the Library for your donations.

# Vacation Bible School

We hope you have marked your calendar's for this year's Vacation Bible School

**June 24th to June 27th from 9 a.m. to noon**

Sign ups for participant registration will start in late April.

If you'd like to be an adult or youth helper, please contact this year's director, Wendy Finch, or the church office.



# Church Pictorial Directory

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There are still photography slots available for the new church directory. Pictures will be taken between Wednesday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 6th. Please take a moment this Sunday to sign up in the Narthex, sign up online at your convenience with this link, <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yv55y1g/> or call the church office with the time you like and we will do the sign up for you.



## Summer Church Camp

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Information is available on The Christian Church of Mid America website (<http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer/>) about church camp opportunities this summer. Please contact the church office if you are interested. Scholarships are available from CCC and the Orchard Crest Permanent Fund.

## Fellowship Followers Fish Fry Outing

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Calling all Fellowship Followers and any adult CCCers to join together on April 5th for a fish fry meal at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manchester. Meet no later than 5:15 in our church parking lot to carpool or meet at St. Joseph's at 5:25. Please sign up in the Narthex by March 24th, as we need to reserve tables. The menu includes your choice of fried or baked fish, fried shrimp, or fish tacos, 2 sides, dessert and coffee or tea, all for \$9.



Come and join us for an evening of fun during Lent!

## Senior Citizen's Lunch

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Mark your calendar for our next lunch on Thursday, April 7th at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex. Our program will be "Panoramas of the City", a virtual walking tour of a current exhibit at the Missouri History Museum.

Hope you will join us! Contact the church office if you have any questions or need a ride.



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019**  
July 20-24, 2019 • Des Moines, IA

Early bird registration ends March 31  
Sign up today!  
Learn more at: [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org)

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Fè youn ak mwèn • 내 안에 거하라  
John 15: 1-5

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## Spring Blood Drive

**This Sunday, March 17, 2019**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter:  
CommChristianCh to schedule an appointment.

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