

July  
2019

# The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear CCC Family,

I've been watching some of the Tour de France this week. The speed of the riders, distances covered during each stage, and endurance of the athletes always amazes me. And this year, more than before, I have been struck by the tactical ingenuity of the racers and teams—when to attack, when to hold back, and when to stay calm.

Though I am not apt to compare sports as a metaphor for life, it seems appropriate to do so today. In the Tour de France there are always, almost without exception, a few rogue riders who break out ahead of the group—trying to make it on their own, thinking that they have the strength to go it alone. And almost always, without exception, the remainder of the riders (the peloton), even if a significant distance behind, catch those who break away. The old idiom remains the same: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go as a group.

So this week, I've been thinking of the church, both our church and the wider church, as a peloton—a community that sticks together. In our nation and world, there are always going to be voices who try to break away and set their own path and agenda. Such voices make their breakaways known through inappropriate comments, threats, or acceptance of actions that should not be tolerated. But as long as the majority, those who hold true to what is, stick together and hold to what is true and just, the outliers will always be brought back to the fold.

The beauty of the peloton is that it allows for both the individuality of the riders and, at the same time, the conformity and strength of the group. Different skills and different gifts are all accepted. The riders, the community, need one another. No one can endure the grind of the race alone.

This Sunday we'll continue our sermon series: Nevertheless, she persisted. We'll study the story of Ruth and Naomi. The story of these two women will remind us that we need one another, no matter where we are from or where we are going.

Thank you for allowing me to journey with you in this race of life.

Blessings,

Jacob

# Thank You

## VBS Success!

Thank you to those who helped with VBS! The kids had a wonderful week!

Thank you to Beth Bean and Susan McGehee for their time and support!

Thank you to the leaders and assistants:

Stacey and Amanda Rawls

Sarah and Laurie Clifton

Cathi Chandler

Jeanne Lemke

Pam, Anna and August Welker

Norm Pereira

Diane and Dick Hall

Brenda Richardson

Mary Ann Seib

Kendra Taylor

Pennie Anderson

Morgan Ericson

Jacob Thorne

Dylan Finch

Sandy Schluesner

Merne Earl

Savannah Polizzi

Rich and Liz Dupuis

We couldn't have had such an amazing week without the support of these wonderful people! Thank you for your blessings to these children!

## Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on August 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library for conversation about the book Faithful Place by Tana French. Please contact Betty Hoover if you need a copy of the book and Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

# YTD Financial Update

Line Item	June 2019 YTD Actual	June 2019 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$185,928	\$172,720	Timing of donations varied more than anticipated
WFLC Rental, other income	20,794	17,328	Increased rental income
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$206,722</b>	<b>\$190,048</b>	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	1,887	3,001	Less spending than anticipated
Worship/Core Ministries/ Stewardship/Pastoral care	6,889	10,125	Fewer choir musicians and special service expenses
Outreach/Mission	15,529	15,915	
Property	61,560	52,796	More snow removal than expected, HVAC repair in spring and lighting improvements in sanctuary
Office/Administration	6,027	6,395	
Debt Service	4,118	5,682	Extra payments to principal have reduced anticipated interest charges
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	96,655	102,336	1 less childcare worker than budgeted, lower social security expense than anticipated
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$192,665</b>	<b>\$196,250</b>	
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$14,057</b>	<b>(\$6,202)</b>	

## Summary:

Several members have taken advantage of the tax benefit of having a portion of their minimum IRA distributions sent directly to CCC. The timing of these donations has accelerated giving in the first 6 months of the year. Rental of the WFLC continues to be strong. We continue to monitor our expenses closely in an effort to stay within budget.

If you need more information about minimum IRA distributions being sent directly to CCC, please consult with your tax advisor /financial planner or contact the church office.

# Mission Team News

## #Courageously Serving

Thanks to the generosity of our community, CCC continues to provide weekend food bags for needy families at Hanna Woods. We have also further strengthened our support of Caring Solutions by providing a basket of household supplies and personal care items for their residents. Recent contributions to Isaiah 58 Ministries of luggage tags and water bottles will assist with their back to school initiatives. Currently the team is preparing for Mission Sunday, scheduled for Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and welcomes your feedback on potential service projects.

## August Stable Sale

CCCers, the Stable Sale is coming again soon and we need to win the food lottery--- provided by YOU! To aid in the work, volunteers could use your efforts to provide "keep going" power. Sign up on the poster in the Narthex on Sunday.

The August Stable Sale is set for August 6-10. Prep week starts next Sunday, after church, thru August 5th. This prep week is one of those "many hands make work easier" moments so please mark it on your to-do calendar. The Stable could use your support! This sale benefits our church as well as charity work. We are trying to do our part in upping the WFLC barometer to eliminate the WFLC debt -- Go Disciples"! Please tell your extended family and neighbors the August dates of the Second Stable Sale.

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