

February
2020

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community,

As I write this article I see that the temperature for the coming night is in the single digits. And while I love sitting in front of my fireplace with a nice mug of hot tea, I anxiously await the coming of spring.

One of the marks of spring, at least for the life of the church in North America, is the start of Lent—a forty day journey towards Easter and the resurrection of Christ. We will celebrate the beginning of lent with our Ash Wednesday service on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This short service is a time to remember the words of John the Baptist, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is coming near,” and, simultaneously, the many ways that God promises not only to forgive, but also to give grace.

Another mark of spring for our community is the start and launch of our community garden. Plans are falling into place and we are excited to see the ways in which our garden ministry will grow and flourish. Our first community work day is scheduled for March 8th following the youth worship service. Come and join us as we build the beds, mulch the pathways, and remember that from the soil of life God is the one who creates.

Finally, on a more personal note, I want to thank each of you for the kind words, prayers, and cards given to me and my family as we journey through this trying time with my mother’s illness. Often, as the pastor, I am the one providing prayer. But now, as pastor, I am also the one receiving prayer. In the receiving, I learn once again the power of community and the love of Community.

Many blessings to each of you,

Jacob

Spring Blood Drive at CCC

Our next church blood drive is Sunday, March 22nd. It is posted on-line and ready for scheduling donation appointments. To get your preferred time, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CommChristianCh.

CCC Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on February 17th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library for conversation about the book *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. The selectin for March will be *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

Project Linus Blanket Day

Saturday, January 25th was our 10th Annual Make a Blanket Day at Community Christian Church. We had 20 women and 3 children/youth gathered to participate. It was an enjoyable morning of service and fellowship. In total we completed 58 fleece blankets. Some of these beautiful soft and comfy blankets will be donated to Project Linus St. Louis/St. Charles Chapter to distribute to local organizations. Others will be donated to UrbanReachSTL to use for the children attending their summer camp. A few will be kept to present to CCC members who might need an extra soft hug while going through a challenging situation.

With this year's blankets added to those we have made in the past, we have distributed around 340 blankets. Well done, Faithful Servants!

Liz Dupuis



Pictured here are several of this year's participants.



Week of Compassion Special Offering

We hear about all the tragedies, natural disasters, human trafficking, dire poverty, and more, that occur in our world today. Often we feel overwhelmed and wonder, "What can I do?"

Luckily, there is something we can do. Through our Week of Compassion special offering, we can give to a Disciples organization that works at tackling all of these situations and others. When there are floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. Week of Compassion is there, helping people get their lives back together. Just as important, Week of Compassion invests in people's futures with education, job training, and other services.

When you give to Week of Compassion, you can trust that your gift will be put to good use; only 6-8% of the money given is used for administrative costs. There will be a special envelope in the Sunday bulletin this Sunday for your donation or you can make a donation online through your Vanco account or the GivePlus app.

Giving to others in need is one of the main tenets of our faith. Please give generously.

"For we are co-workers in God's service, you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9

SPECIAL OFFERING 2019 RECAP

We are thankful for your generosity during the various special offerings collected in 2019. The donations received were: Week of Compassion - \$571; Reconciliation Ministry - \$201; Pentecost - \$712; Easter - \$1,066; Thanksgiving - \$422; Christmas - \$575 and Christmas Eve - \$950.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2020



July 13—July 17
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

YOUTH SUNDAY 2020



Sunday, March 8th
10:00 a.m.

CHILI COOK OFF SUCCESS

Congratulations to Joyce Doup, the 1st place winner and David Hosler, as the 2nd place winner of the annual Elder's chili cook off competition. Thank you to all the chili makers as well as those who made soup and provided soda/auction items. All the elders did so much work in all areas. We were delighted that the youth sold sodas and contributed the proceeds of \$108 to *Feed My Starving Children*. The auction donations provided approximately \$700.00 and along with the ticket sales, the net proceeds of \$1,200 will be divided between *UrbanReachSTL* and one *Feed My People*, High Ridge, MO.

Thanks to all who attended and were so generous!!



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH IN MARCH

We are looking forward to a special program on March 5th for our first lunch of 2020. The program, *Plants of the Bible*, is a 1 hour presentation given by John Hensley, a Master Gardener from the Missouri Botanical Garden. Please plan to join us for this time of learning, lunch and fellowship.



Church Camp 2020

There are many church camp opportunities for 2020 coming up this summer! Scholarships are available from CCC and the Orchard Crest Permanent Fund. Further information is available on The Christian Church of Mid America website <http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer> Please contact the church office if you need more information or pick up a flyer in the CCC Narthex.



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Scout Sunday



We enjoyed having CCC scouts and their leaders assist with worship on February 2nd.