

March
2020

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community Family and Friends:

Have you ever played the childhood game *Concentration*? The goal is pretty simple. A deck of cards is randomly distributed face down and each player takes turns trying to find a matching pair. For my children, *Concentration* is a game of utter frustration and total jubilation. For me, I have lately come to see the game in the larger context of life.

In February, we celebrated Ash Wednesday. There, as we do each year, we remembered the words of the psalmist: "Purge me with hyssop and make me clean." Then, while attending our latest senior citizen luncheon with a guest lecturer presenting the plants of the Bible, I heard the word again—hyssop. It was a match.

I thought about this match, and plant, as we made the first eight beds of our community garden this past Sunday. In the Jewish tradition, hyssop is a plant that is used, as the psalmist suggests, in the ritual of purification. Hyssop is a means to remembering that we are the creature, not the Creator. We are all perfectly imperfect and made perfect by God. As we shoveled the soil, topped the beds with compost, made new friends from the wider community, and even planted a few onions to start things off, I reveled in the power of the soil where, as proclaimed in the book of Genesis, life begins.

Sometimes this simple work of moving soil, compost, and mulch can create the largest rewards. It's paradoxical, but true. Fewer distractions create a larger awareness of the Spirit.

As we live into this practice of collective community gardening, I invite you not only to help us plant, grow and harvest vegetables, but also to dive deeper into the Divine Mystery, found in the soil, the compost, and the plants. Together, with one another and with God, we are a match.

Blessings to each of you,

Jacob

SPRING BLOOD DRIVE AT CCC

Our next blood drive is Sunday, March 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the WFLC. Please take a moment to schedule a donation appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CommChristianCh.

The Red Cross will be implementing a few additional steps as part of the donation process to safeguard everyone due to the coronavirus outbreak.

CCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on March 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library for conversation about the book *Anything Is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

MISSION AND SERVICE SATURDAY

Mission and Service Saturday will be held Saturday, April 18th, 2020. All CCC community members and friends are invited to take part in this awesome opportunity to serve our community.

As part of this event we will once again be assembling personal hygiene packs for Festival of Sharing.

Festival of Sharing is a Missouri nonprofit that partners with 113 agencies in Missouri to invest in the root causes of poverty. The items we collect will be given to people in our state who need them.

There will be a box in the Narthex soon where you can place your donations. Thanks in advance for helping with this worthy project.

Items needed for the personal hygiene packs are:

fluoride toothpaste, (6 oz. or more)	toothbrush (in original package)
bath-size bar of soap (in original package)	bottle of skin lotion (11-14 oz.)
bottle of shampoo (12-16 oz.)	washcloths
hand towels	deodorant
2 disposable razors	comb or brush

Additional service projects are currently being identified and sign up sheets will soon be available in the Narthex. We will meet at CCC on the 18th at 9:30 a.m. for a brief prayer and then head out to our service locations. A celebratory lunch will be held on Sunday, April 19th after church in the Narthex.

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, baskets, Easter decorations, Spring décor, art work, cuddly stuffed animals, books, etc... something for everyone. Plus we'll have two tables full of new to-you jewelry!! The Stable has voted to give \$350 to Jacob's Garden Project. To accomplish this goal, we need CCCers to come and, as they say, "Buy Local!" You'll get first choice! This event is MARCH 29 RIGHT AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE, held in the WFLC gym. Mark this important one day event on your cell, calendar or try a brain booster-- memory. SEE YA THERE!

A NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank the women involved in Community Christian's Ladies small groups for the kind gift I received in the mail. As I am just beginning a new semester, it was encouraging to open a piece of mail and know that you guys are thinking of me. I wish you all the best and again, thank you so much.

Melody Staicoff

Dear Ladies of Rebecca and Priscilla Small groups,

It means so much that you still think of me. Please know that this means a lot to me. I am grateful to have such a loving and supporting community behind me.

Thank you,

Casi Corona

We would like to thank everyone for their support with calls, cards and prayers during the long illness and recent passing of our dear mother, Rose Jacobsmeyer. It is a blessing to be part of a caring church family.

Beckie and Randy Jacobsmeyer

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Don't forget to mark your calendars from July 13th to July 17th for a fun week of VBS. Each daily session will begin at 9:00 a.m. and dismiss at noon. VBS is open to children from age 3 (and potty trained) to 5th grade.



MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS SATURDAY

The quarterly men's breakfast meeting will be held in the WFLC this Saturday, March 14th, in the WFLC. Following breakfast, Rev. Jeff Moore of Webster Groves Christian Church will share a program entitled *"Interact with Revelation."* All men are invited to participate. Coffee will be brewed for fellowship time at 8 a.m. and breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m.

FISH FRY FRIDAY (with a Greek twist)

All are welcome to join your CCC family for a meal at the Assumption Greek Orthodox church, 1755 Des Peres Road in Town and Country on Friday, March 20th. Please be at CCC by 11:30 a.m. if you'd like to carpool to the church, otherwise meet at the lunch location just before noon. The following link will show pricing and menu options. Please sign up in the Narthex this Sunday or contact the church office if you'd like to attend. <http://www.assumptiongoc.org/friday-lunch>

SAVE THE DATE - PRIDE FEST 2020

CCC will be participating in the Pride Fest events again this summer on June 27th and 28th. If you'd like to order a DOC Rainbow Chalice t-shirt for the festival, please use the link below. Orders must be placed by May 6th. <https://www.customink.com/g/htw0-00c4-mm0d>

LADIES SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

All women are invited to attend the Rebecca Ladies Small Group meeting on March 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the CCC Library. There will be a time of fellowship, study and prayer. The March service project is to bring kid friendly food which will be donated to the Circle of Concern.

The next meeting for the Priscilla Group will be on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the CCC Library. The April service project will be items for the Mission Day hygiene kits.

COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAY SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in moving mulch, gardening soil and compost this past Sunday.



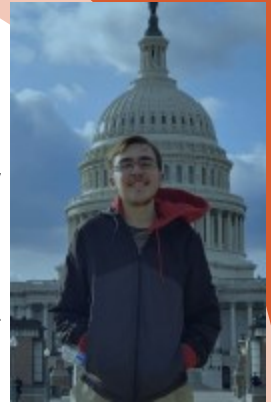
The seedlings Rev. Thorne has planted are coming along nicely and will be ready for planting very soon, weather permitting.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP SUPPORT

Dear CCC,

I hope this letter finds you well! I wanted to bring you up to date on what has been happening in my life recently. I am currently a sophomore at Maryville University, where I am studying to be a middle school English teacher. I am involved in many clubs activities, including Community Service Club, Maryville Student Government, and Best Buddies. One of my most treasured roles, though, is a student leader and treasure for Cru, a Christian organization on campus that provides a caring, compassionate community committed to connecting students to Jesus.



As I have been involved in Cru on campus, the Lord has been growing my in my faith and trust in Him a lot. I have gotten to do a lot with this group, such as a service trip to New Orleans, conferences where I've learned from the Bible, and being involved in Christian community on campus where we can learn to walk with God together. God has been working in my life these past four semesters, helping me grow not only as a leader but as a Christian. As I have been involved, God has really shown me the value of investing in my own faith, but also the importance and calling that God has given us of helping others know and love Christ too.

This summer, I have been given the opportunity to participate in a summer mission trip to Ecuador. We are going to be sharing on college campuses and although the country is highly Catholic, students don't have a personal relationship with God. Our goal will be to share our faith and help them grow in their relationship with Christ. Although this step of faith is scary, I am extremely excited to have the opportunity for Jesus to use me to change someone's life forever.

We will be in Ecuador for 6 weeks, from May 17th to July 1st. In order for this trip to be possible however, I need to raise a team of ministry partners who will come alongside me both prayerfully and financially. I need a total of \$4,750 by May 17th, which covers airfare, room and board, and all other expenses. I wanted to ask if you would prayerfully consider giving a gift of \$100, \$200, or \$500 to help make this mission possible? If you feel led to give, you can do so through Cru's secure online site give.cru.org/1087823, or you can mail a check made out to "Cru" to this address: 460-C Prospect Creek Drive, Manchester, MO 63021. By giving and praying for me during the trip, you would be supporting me in ways that you can't even imagine. Your donation and your support means so much not just to me but also to helping reach Ecuadorian students with the Gospel.

However you decide, I am so grateful for you I would really appreciate your prayer support for my team and I this summer. We cannot do this work without God's power and people's prayer support.

Thank you,

Elvis Walters

YOUTH SUNDAY

Thank you to all the youth who led worship this past Sunday and to the GKC for singing as part of the service. It was an inspirational morning.



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