



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY, 2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Church:

We wait anxiously to resume attending in-person worship and church ministries/ activities. It will be so good when we are able to see our church family, break bread at the communion table, and worship in the sanctuary as one. But we are not there yet.

In the state of Missouri, St. Louis County has one of the highest rates of Covid-19 infections. Phased reopening plans developed by public health experts call for several benchmarks to indicate safety: fourteen days of declining case counts, widespread testing, and contact tracing.

The latest numbers from the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force show a slight decrease in the number of cases and average hospitalizations.

The health and safety of each of you is our number one priority.

We are using the following questions as a means of guiding our response to resuming worship:

How will we maintain an online streaming option once we resume worship?

How many people can our sanctuary hold if we worship as families and maintain social distance guidelines?

How will we discourage the receiving line after church and/or congregating after worship in the narthex?

How will Sunday School classes and children attending the nursery meet safely in the same place?

In the early phases of relaunch, how will we cap attendance at events?

How will we ensure sanitation and disinfection in regards to communal spaces?

How will we update our building use agreements with outside groups to reflect the new realities of COVID-19?

If someone contracts COVID-19, how will we communicate this information while maintaining privacy and pastoral care?

If someone who has been in our building contracts COVID-19, how will we do a more intensive cleaning prior to its next use?

How will we communicate our safety plan and best practices to the congregation and those who use our buildings?

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MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER (FROM PAGE 1)

What does our insurance company recommend in terms of benchmarks for reopening, and resuming ministries?

When is it safe/appropriate to host the Stable sale?

Clearly, there are a number of issues and questions to address. However, with God's guidance, and the leadership of the CLT, Elders, Staff, and Volunteers, I am confident that we will discern the best plan possible. Once we have more information and answers to the questions above, we will share via email, website, and letter.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or simply want to be in conversation. I pray for each of you daily and miss our in-person worship tremendously.

Many blessings to all,

Jacob

MISSION TEAM UPDATES

In April, your generous donations helped us fill 24 bags of food for families of Hanna Woods Elementary School. In May, we are supporting a food drive coordinated by Isaiah 58 ministries with drop off locations across the area.

If you'll like to be a volunteer at one of the drop off sites, please use the link below to see available openings.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044eafa72da4f49-isaiah5>

CCC is helping with financial support of this food drive by making a donation of \$240.



MEAL ASSISTANCE

As many of you know, a special member of our congregation, Vickie Minden, recently had surgery to remove a brain tumor. As a way to support her during her recovery, we have created a Meal Train sign up. Please use the link below if you'd like to participate in providing a meal for Vickie and her daughter Elizabeth over the next few weeks.

Meal Train sign up link:

<https://mealtrain.com/w1kw4e>



A NOTE OF THANKS

To the Ladies of CCC,

Thank you so much for the Chic-fil-a gift card. It is really helpful in this trying time. It was very nice of you all to think of me.

Sincerely,

Allie Seymour

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

We have changed direction over that past month and have made the decision to hold a at home/virtual VBS this summer. The dates will remain from July 13th to July 17th. More details will be available in the next couple of weeks to help us with our planning for this unique VBS experience.



CCC recording studio

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP VIDEOS

We hope you have been enjoying our weekly worship videos on Sunday morning. If you'd like to participate, either by recording something at home or coming to the church to make a recording, just let us know. Congregation participation has been a great way to keep us connected during this time when we can't worship in the sanctuary together.

SPRING IN BLOOM AT CCC



Thank you Laura McDurmont for sharing the beautiful pictures.

JOE AND BETTY BREMER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our garden is coming to life



Finally, the weather is warming up and the garden plantings have grown vigorously in the past couple of weeks, with harvest of some items happening soon. With overnight temperatures projected to stay away from the 30's and 40's we can continue with new plantings of vegetables, such as squash, tomatoes and peppers.

CCC FINANCIAL UPDATE as of April 30, 2020

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$124,437	\$123,974	Many mail in and online donations in April
WFLC Rental, other income	11,506	14,992	Decreased rental income for gym and building due to Covid-19.
Total Income	\$135,943	\$138,966	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	615	2,100	Less spending than anticipated for youth and children's programs
Worship/Core Ministries	6,229	6,715	
Outreach/Mission	9,075	9,871	No April day of service and celebration meal
Property	35,766	37,519	Less ongoing maintenance than expected
Office/Administration	4,473	5,470	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	65,740	67,496	Lower pastor expenses for continuing education
Total Operating Expenses	\$121,898	\$129,171	
Surplus	\$14,045	\$9,795	

As of April 30, the current pandemic has not taken too much of a toll on our general offering. We have started to feel the effect of reduced rental income from no use by outside groups of the main building and Wunderlich Family Life Center since mid March. Some expenses have been lower due to the pandemic and lack of weekly activity in our buildings. We have continued to pay all staff salaries at their budgeted amounts.

On May 1 we received a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$23,400. This amount will assist in our payment of payroll and certain other eligible expenses over the course of the next 8 weeks.

In April we were able to have the parking lot potholes filled in and have the entire lot sealed and striped.

Your continued financial support by mail or use of online giving will help us maintain ongoing operating expenses as well as budgeted outreach and mission contributions.

MEET OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The class of 2020 has had quite the unexpected finish to their high school years. Please join us in congratulating Jenna Evans and Allyson Monroe on their high school achievements and wishing them all the best when college life begins this fall.



Jenna Evans



Allyson Monroe

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