



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JULY, 2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Church:

In the Before Time...this is how I might start referring to life pre-COVID. In the Before Time I would preach with each of you present in our sanctuary, noticing how certain words or phrases of my message resonated (or did not) and adjust accordingly. In the Before Time I would be embraced on Sunday mornings by the smell of the coffee in the Narthex, the handshakes of those from our beloved community, and the hugs of those I love and shepherd. In the Before Time we had to worry about the air conditioning during the summer months and how many bulletins to print. But now, it has all changed.

These days, I find myself resonating more with the psalmist who cried out, "How long, O' Lord?"

How long will it be before we can safely return to worship? I worry about connections, missed connections, and those who I have not physically seen since March. And yet, even in this time of worry and fear I trust.

I trust that my prayers to God are being heard. I trust that the Spirit is still moving. I trust that our children are still learning about their faith. And I am so thankful that Wendy Finch was the leader of our first ever virtual Vacation Bible School. Wendy, and her team of volunteers, did an incredible job engaging our youth virtually in order that they can learn more about God and faith. Well done, thy good and faithful servants!

Finally, I trust that one day God will again bring us together. Until then, I will continue my prayers, try not to dwell too much on the Before Time, and rejoice that the church is still being church even without meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

For the Before Time and all times, thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Jacob

MISSION TEAM UPDATES

The CCC Mission First Team is grateful for your continuous support for several food insecure families of Hanna Woods Elementary School. Food bags are distributed each week to the Hanna Woods families with items such as macaroni and cheese, cereal, bread, peanut butter, canned fruit, fresh fruit, microwave meals and more.



As the start of a new school year approaches, CCC is once again supporting Isaiah 58 Ministries with their annual Back to School drive. Purchases of 225 wide rule spiral notebooks and 150 backpack tags were shipped directly to Isaiah 58 this week. To assist with clothing needs for school, they are seeking socks and underwear **suitable for teenagers**. You can help by purchasing several pairs of these clothing items and dropping them off in the green tub by the front doors of the church, order online and send to CCC or mail a check to CCC with Isaiah 58 in the memo line and we can make purchases on your behalf. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We also continue to collect food items for Circle of Concern. Their list of critical needs includes: jelly, pasta sauce, dinner helpers, canned pasta, dry potatoes/beans/rice, condiments, snacks, body wash, laundry detergent, hand soap, bar soap and conditioner.



Global Ministries is currently sharing presentations from mission co-workers on the [Global Ministries Facebook page](#). The mission co-worker is present to answer questions and interact with you in the comments. You will learn about the ministries of global partners and some of the ways in which mission co-workers are present with partners around the world.

Remaining presentations are on July 21 and 23. The presentations will go live at 3 pm ET. Past presentations can be viewed on the Facebook page as well.

BREMER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our community garden is enjoying the summer heat and recent rainfall. Last week we harvested onions and basil, and this week we planted buckwheat and bush beans and picked cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, bell peppers and green beans. We look forward to sharing these items with Circle of Concern and CCC members.



THANK YOU NOTES

Our blood drive on June 14th was a success with collections of 24 pints of blood. Thank you to all of our church members, plus many from the community, who came by to help the American Red Cross as these uncertain times continue.

Our next church drive is scheduled for Sept 20th. It will once again be held from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Liz Dupuis, Blood Program Leader

Dear Community Christian and the Stable Group,

No words to thank you enough. Both donations will be used with wisdom and discernment. The \$500 will be used to continue to feed the community and the Stable donation of \$2,000 will go towards the new roof!

Love,

Tina

Co-Director, UrbanReachSTL

CCC FINANCIAL UPDATE as of June 30, 2020

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Offering | \$174,307 | \$174,792 | |
| WFLC Rental, other income | 11,743 | 19,898 | Decreased rental income for gym and building due to Covid-19. |
| Total Income | \$186,050 | \$194,690 | |
| Children/Youth/Adult Ministries | 693 | 3,205 | Less spending than anticipated for all programs. |
| Worship/Core Ministries | 7,022 | 8,930 | Less spending than anticipated due to Covid-19. |
| Outreach/Mission | 14,170 | 16,091 | No Mission Day activities |
| Property | 50,359 | 53,022 | Fewer building repairs needed |
| Office/Administration | 6,025 | 7,649 | Less spending than anticipated due to Covid-19. |
| Wages/Expenses/ Benefits | 98,132 | 100,973 | Lower Senior Pastor and office manager expenses. |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$176,401 | \$189,870 | |
| Surplus | \$9,649 | \$4,820 | |

Thank you so much for everyone's support of CCC during this pandemic. Fortunately, reductions in income due to lack of use of our facilities by outside groups have been partially offset by reduced expenses, creating a surplus as of June 30th.

We appreciate the continued work of the mowing crew volunteers who come each week for lawn mowing and trimming.

As a reminder, your financial contributions to CCC can be by check and mailed to the church office or by using online giving options. Please contact the church office if you need more information about how to give electronically.

Virtual VBS Highlights

It has been a week of fun for the kids that participated in our VBS program this past week. Each day there was a Bible story, craft, music, snack, science, recreation and Zoom fellowship time. It was quite strange to have VBS with no kids moving from station to station in the church building, but we are thankful that their at home experience was a good one.

Special thanks to Wendy Finch for being the VBS coordinator and to all her hard work putting together the slides of daily activities, sending emails and more. We also appreciate all of those who helped in some way including Allyson Monroe, Hannah Donsky, Savannah Polizzi, Cindy Herman, Norman Pereira, Jean Lemke, Susan McGehee, Lori Hoover, Carl Quicksall, Beth Bean and Rev. Thorne.

If your kids didn't have a chance to participate this week, the slides for each day will remain on our website for the next few weeks and can be viewed at your convenience.



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