



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ SEPTEMBER, 2020
MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

Some days the stories of the Bible seem more prevalent than others.

Lately, I've been thinking about the Israelites wandering in the desert with Moses. Before long, there were complaints. "Let us return to Egypt," they said. "At least there we had food."

We are not in the desert of Sinai, but we are, at this moment, in a time of wilderness. Right now, even though 2019 was not a perfect year by any means, turning back the calendar seems like a reasonable request. Let us go back to the days of meeting inside and sharing life with one another without the fear of Covid or the burdensome wearing of masks. How long until God parts the sea and shows us a path of salvation?

I don't know. Nobody does—that's part of the problem. But within the conundrum of this global pandemic there are signs that God is working to turn moments of tribulation into moments of goodness. As I thought about all of the information that will be shared in this week's Vital Spark I was awed by the immensity of ministry taking place in the life of our church. We have the Stable Sale getting ready to start the second sale of the season; the children's ministry offering some creative fall activities specifically targeted to remain connected with our families; the garden is still providing fresh produce for so many; the bags for Hanna Woods and donations to Circle of Concern are overflowing with generosity; the music staff and volunteers work hard every week to bring us fresh and engaging songs; the folks who have attended in-person worship have shared how refreshing it is for their souls to be back in the sanctuary; the new sign adorns the entrance to the drive; and the mission team has an opportunity for volunteering (work at Hanna Woods) this Sunday. Even through the struggles, God is good.

It is easy to romanticize the past and dream about the future. But in the present moment, I sometimes need to be reminded, like the Israelites, that God will make a way when it seems, to us, that there is no way.

Thanks be to God for the unwavering guidance and direction. Thanks be to each of you for the ongoing ministry and mission of this church.

Blessings on the journey,

Jacob

Rev. Thorne will be on vacation this weekend.

We look forward to having Rev. Jody Clegg serving as our guest preacher.

Reserve your space for Sunday in-person worship.

MISSION TEAM UPDATES



Circle of Concern Christmas Giving

IT IS TIME FOR THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN GIVING TREE . . . JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT!

Thank you for the support you have given to our Giving Tree in past years. In 2019, holiday gifts were given to nearly 600 families - 1,800 individuals! But just like everything else in 2020, the program will change this year! We will not be buying gifts for families (which I know is the fun part!) but instead donating money to provide each family with gift cards that they can use to purchase gifts for themselves and their kids.

If you would like to participate in this year's Giving Tree, please give a check to church and write **C of C Tree** in the memo line or select Circle of Concern Holiday Fund if you prefer to make an online donation from our website. Your donations will be used to purchase gift cards from our church and give them to Circle! Please turn in your contribution by Sunday, October 4th.

Thanks for your support in the past and please give as generously as you can this year, too.

Circle of Concern Giving Tree Chair
Cindy Herman, (314-494-2630 for any questions)

Outdoor Service Project for Hanna Woods this Sunday

Our "adopted" elementary school, Hanna Woods, could use a little help. They would like to use their outdoor classroom when in person school resumes, but the area hasn't had much maintenance attention for the last two years. It has become a bit overgrown, one of the benches needs some repair, and scraping and painting is needed.

This Sunday afternoon, September 27th, at 1:00 p.m., the Mission First Team plans to improve this outdoor space with use of trimmers, rakes, scrapers, brushes, WORKERS, and whatever it takes to get the area back to usable status.

If you think you would like to help with this project, please contact the church office or Ted Herman. (314-609-0883 or tedher@gmail.com)

PRISCILLA LADIES GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Priscilla Ladies Group will continue meeting using Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. All women are welcome for a time of study, prayer, service and fellowship. Study materials are available. Please contact Betty Quicksall by phone/text/email for more information. 636-484-0791 or bettyquic@sbcglobal.net. In October, the group will be collecting feminine hygiene products to be donated to Circle of Concern. You may place your donation in the green tub by the front door of the church or in the marked basket across from the CCC library.

We would love to see you on our screens.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW LOGO AND ENTRY SIGN?

A new logo and branding system has been designed for CCC to support and align with our Mission and Vision. You may have seen it on our redesigned website, which debuted earlier this year. Now we have a bright, new lighted entry sign to replace the crumbling old one.

Our logo is anchored by The Chalice which is a symbol of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) surrounded by arching shapes reaching upward and outward. The outer circle then wraps all of the elements together to create a cohesive whole. The word "Community" is bolder and larger than the words "Christian Church" to emphasize the importance of community in the life of our Church.



A fresh palette of four colors was chosen and each color has meaning as shown in the color wheel on the right. The logo contains all of the colors in a purposeful way to create movement. When combined together, the logo and colors complement each other as a visual identity for CCC that is inclusive and welcoming yet conveys diversity and authenticity.



Look for more branding to roll out in the future.

STABLE SALE IS AROUND THE CORNER

The Stable Sale is right around the corner! We still need diet soda and water - small bottles please! You can drop it off at church any time! Thanks so much!

We also need some workers!. Please let me know if you would be willing to work any day and what hours. We can't do this without a lot of help!

We will have a Friends and Family sale for CCC members on October 4 from 11 to 4.

Monday - Oct 5 - 9 to 5
Tuesday - Oct 6 - 9 to 5
Wednesday - Oct 7 - 9 to 7
Thursday - Oct 8 - 9 to 7
Friday - Oct 9 - 9 to 3
Saturday - Oct 10 - 9 to 5
Circle of Concern Shopping Day - Sunday - Oct 11 - 11:30 - 2:30



You can email, text, or call Cindy Herman (314-494-2630) with whatever you can bring or do!

Thanks so much for all of your care, support, assistance, and prayers!

HONORING THE MINISTRY OF REV. THORNE



Each year CCC sets aside a special time in October to honor the work of our minister over the past year. This year we will celebrate Rev. Thorne's ministry with us on October 18th. Feel free to bring a card to worship or the all church event that Sunday or drop him a note by mail. We won't have the usual cake/cookie reception in the Narthex, but hopefully our words of support and encouragement will still make for a special day.



CCC EVENTS TO CONNECT AND SERVE

Please set aside 2-4 pm on October 18th to join others from CCC for a variety of socially distanced, outdoor activities.

With Halloween just around the corner, we will have some fun activities, including pumpkin carving and decorating. CCC will supply pumpkins in many sizes and we will have plenty of outdoor space to spread out. Please [register](#) to help us with our planning. Some of the decorated pumpkins will be donated to Big Bend Woods Healthcare Center.



Live music, provided by Steve Staicoff and Ed Bean, will add to the fun of this event.



In the past CCC has had a team that walked in the Alzheimer's Association Annual Walk held in downtown St. Louis. With the ongoing pandemic, teams are going to walk in their neighborhoods in 2020 to raise awareness and funds to end Alzheimer's. As part of our event on the 18th we will have a 1 and 2 mile walk mapped out if you'd like to show your support for the ongoing efforts to end Alzheimers. You will be able to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association without participating in the walk if desired.

UrbanReach STL will have its annual Trunk-Or-Treat on October 31 from 12pm to 2pm in the big field behind the Patrick Henry Downtown Academy near downtown St. Louis. If you'd like to decorate your car/van/truck and hand out candy to the families from this area, please contact the church office for additional details. Costumes optional. If you would like to donate candy for the event, you may leave it in the green tub outside of the front entrance doors to the church.



CCC friends who passed out candy at last year's event

CHILDREN'S SABBATH OBSERVANCE

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend unites faith communities of every religious tradition across the nation to:

- Raise awareness of problems facing children and families in our nation (such as poverty, gun violence, and lack of health care)
- Explore the texts and teachings in religious traditions that call us to nurture and protect children with love and justice
- Engage people of faith in immediate and long-term action to nurture, protect, and seek justice for children

By participating in this multi-faith, nationwide celebration, people of faith gain the inspiration of participating in a larger movement for children and help amplify the voice of our faith communities calling for justice.¹

All children and youth of CCC are invited to participate in our worship service on October 18th, either in person or from home. We will send out an email next week for assistance in creating a special Lord's Prayer video. Participation in the call to worship, special music or artwork for the bulletin is also encouraged.

Light a Candle for Children weekly scripture reading link: Click [here](#)

Light a Candle for Children daily blog link: Click [here](#)

¹ Children's Defense Fund Website

NOTARY SERVICE AVAILABLE

Beth Bean recently registered with the Missouri Secretary of State to become a Notary. Please contact her in the church office if you have documents that require notarization.

A link is provided below for the Missouri Secretary of State's office with important information about voting and when your ballot may require notarization.

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/howtovote>



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on October 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *Circling the Sun*, by Paula McClain . Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in place for this meeting.



Our blood drive this past Sunday was a success with collections of 23 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.

Liz Dupuis, Blood Program Leader

Dear Community Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the graduation check, it means a lot that you all are thinking of me. I'll be going to Missouri State in the fall and this will help. Again thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Alex Ring

Dear Mission Team,

WOW– no words. Thank you for believing in the call, vision, and mission of UrbanReachSTL. While COVID has slowed down our programming (slowed but not stopped!) we have gone full speed ahead with the building. Your donation of \$2,000 allowed that to happen. So many thanks!

Love,

Tina



MID AMERICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

All are welcome to participate in an online Regional Assembly on October 3, at 9:00 a.m. No registration is required to attend.

The theme is "Better Together: Local, Regional, & General Church - a strong threefold cord" based on Ecclesiastes 4:12b (A threefold cord is not quickly broken.)

Join us on the [Mid America Facebook page](#) (you don't need to have a Facebook account) for a 90 minute live gathering that will include worship, music, reports from our ministry partners, our business session, and more!



In Luke 19:39 to 40 we read that some of the Pharisees in a crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher rebuke your disciples." "I tell you," he replied "If they keep quiet the stones will cry out." Though we know that God's spirit will cause the stones to cry out if we remain silent, when it comes to being an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church, silence is not an option.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry allow your communities and your congregations to ensure the human dignity of every child, to ensure all have access to Christ's abundance, to fully flourish in education, and financial stability, and friendships across God's human diversity. Won't you join the chorus in shouting out Hosana, Hosana blessed are we who come in the name of the Lord. Thank you for your generosity.

Your donation can be placed in the offering tray on Sunday morning, [online](#) or by sending a check to the church.

CCC
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Minister
Beth Bean, Office Manager
636.394.2772
office@disciplesforchrist.org
www.disciplesforchrist.org