



# The Vital Spark

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

Dear Community,

This year continues to be a year of pivoting and flexibility. And after prayerful conversation, we are announcing yet another change: Our Christmas Eve service will be online only.

We did not arrive at this decision easily. Singing “Silent Night” in the sacredness of our sanctuary is one of the hallmarks of our faith and foundation. But with the rising cases of Covid, along with the recommendations of the public health department, and the logistics involved for multiple services with fluctuating attendance, we believe that having an online service is the safest option for all involved.

While it will be different, we are working hard to assure the Christmas Eve service will still be meaningful. I am excited for the special music, participation of our youth, and the promises of God made known once again. In keeping with the traditional times, we will have the “live” service at 3:30 and 7:00 on Facebook and YouTube.

We will also have an online service only on the Sunday following Christmas, December 27<sup>th</sup>. And finally, we will return to in-person worship on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On a slightly different note, I want to thank each of you for the incredible generosity shown during this season of Advent. The Christmas cheer from Community has been shared in so many ways: decorations of Christmas tree door hangers for a local nursing home, collections of gift cards for the children at Columbia Elementary School, presents for the children and youth of Urban ReachSTL, and the cash donations for clients from Circle of Concern. It is a joy to participate in such a caring church. Thank you!

In this season of dreams and interruptions, I am holding you in my prayers.

Many blessings,

Jacob

## DEVOTIONAL STUDY WITH REV. THORNE

A reminder that Rev. Thorne is hosting the last of the Advent discussions on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon. All are invited to join in conversation reflecting on the Advent devotional and the ways in which you sense the Spirit of God working in your life. Zoom link is [here](#).

# MISSION TEAM UPDATES

## DONATIONS FOR URBAN REACH STL

The Mission Team would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent toy drive. Approximately 30 toys, from dolls to basketballs, were donated. Your generosity is appreciated.

The toys were given to the children involved in Urban Reach St. Louis which is doing wonderful work with children and youth in the Columbus Square area of St. Louis.

## COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIFT CARDS

Even though it's been impossible to volunteer at Columbia Elementary School this year, we have not forgotten the people there who are in need. Last week Linda Helm delivered 117-\$10.00 gift cards (from Schnucks, Walgreens, Walmart) to Columbia Elementary. Mrs. Payton, the principal, indicated she would meet with the social worker and advisory committee to see that the cards will go to those most in need. When I learned how much we had for these families it brought me to tears. Thank you all.

Linda Helm and the Mission First Team

## SUPPORT FOR SALVATION ARMY

Every December for over 30 years, Community Christian Church has participated in the Salvation Army Tree of Lights Campaign by ringing the bell at an area grocery store. As with many other things, in person bell ringing has become a virtual event in 2020. To learn more about how donations are used and/or to make a donation, please [donate here](#).



## THANKSGIVING CRAFTS FOR WEST COUNTY CARE CENTER



A. Gray (pictured above) helped assemble some of the turkey decorations.

We provided turkey door hangers to the residents of West County Care Center on Solley Drive in Ballwin just before Thanksgiving. The staff and residents were very excited to receive these colorful decorations. Thank you to all that helped assemble the craft kits.

# CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries. In 32 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

Please give generously to this offering by mailing a donation to CCC, placing a check in the offering tray on Sunday or giving online via our website.. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.



2020 Christmas Offering  
**REJOICE**  
A special day offering of  
Disciples Mission Fund

When they saw the star,  
they rejoiced exceedingly  
with great joy.  
Matthew 2:10



2020 Christmas Special Offering  
Our finest gifts supporting the Ministries of our Region  
Received December 13th & 20th in most Congregations

# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *The Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in place for this meeting.



Our dear friends at Church and Bible Study,

You have saved us from possible depression with all that has happened to us this year. First came the fire that destroyed Lea Ann and Ted's home. A few months later Lea Ann fell and broke her nose, her left wrist and her left ankle. Then after recent cataract surgery, streptococcus attached her eye. The doctors are trying to kill the infection and save the eye and her sight. So far that has not been successful. She has made and is still making trip after trip to see the doctor. Sybil had knee surgery and have been doing therapy for the last eight weeks.

Your prayers are doing their best. All of our friends and your support has inspired us. We have received meals, money, cards, and prayers. We want you to know how much we appreciate all these many blessings. Forgive me for not writing you individually. We want you to know how much your blessings have brought us comfort and cheer.

You, too, are in our prayers.

Love to each of you,

Sybil Wasson, Lea Ann and Ted Ravens

## POINSETTIA DECORATIONS

We appreciated having so many poinsettias in the sanctuary to add a festive look to our worship services. If you ordered a flower, you are welcome to stop and pick yours up on December 23rd. Office hours may be limited for pick up during the week of the 28th, so please call the church office before coming by.



## BLOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY

CCC is hosting the December blood drive this Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the WFLC gym. Please sign up at [rcblood.org/appt](http://rcblood.org/appt).

## PRISCILLA LADIES GROUP MONTHLY MEETING

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. January study materials will soon be available in the CCC Library. Please contact Betty Quicksall by phone/text/email for more information. 636-484-0791 or [bettyquic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bettyquic@sbcglobal.net). Hope you will join us.

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