



# The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MARCH, 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

Almost exactly a year ago, we made the decision to go online and suspend in-person church services. I never imagined enduring what we have experienced over the past twelve months. It has not been easy. All of us have been affected one way or another by the sting of the novel coronavirus. But as spring begins to unfold and we find ourselves moving towards Holy Week and Easter Sunday, I am thankful for the lessons learned during the pandemic—especially as it relates to our church.

We still have limited in-person attendance on Sunday mornings, averaging between 35-40 individuals (we would love to see you). But even with a smaller physical attendance in worship, I feel that we are more present in the wider community than ever before. I have met several individuals/families over the past year who only attended in-person after first worshipping with us online. Through these conversations I have come to appreciate how online worship, and online communities, are both genuine and authentic. Now that we have, mostly, figured out the technological challenges of going online, it is time to learn how to connect even better with those who may never walk through the doors of our sanctuary, but worship with us every Sunday.

Over the past year, I have also come to appreciate our beautiful church campus even more. For many, walking back into the sanctuary after a long physical absence has been a breath of fresh air—a feeling that maybe, just maybe, things will be okay. At the same time, our physical buildings, such as the gym and the rooms below the sanctuary, are being used on a near constant basis. We rent office space, host a variety of AA meetings, and have basketballs going up and down the court of the gym floor from morning to night. There is a sense, just by seeing the presence of cars in the parking lot, that slowly life is returning to a new normal.

All of this, of course, is not possible without each of you. Each person reading this article is a part of what makes Community so wonderful. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your continual work for the mission of God and Jesus Christ.

I look forward to worshipping with each you every Sunday, whether in person or online.

Blessings,

Jacob

# MISSION FIRST SERVICE DAY ~ SAVE-THE-DATE

We will have several opportunities for service on April 24th. Project descriptions and service times will be announced in early April.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN OPPORTUNITY

Spring is upon us and we are excited to offer continuing opportunities for our church family and friends to help us with the CCC garden ministry. This past week we had help spreading compost and planting kale, lettuce and onions. Thank you!

The next garden work day is this Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. We have beets, radishes and more to plant from seed, wood chips and compost to spread and more.

Hope you can join us.



## THANK YOU...

Ladies of CCC,

I am so thankful for the fleece blanket given to me recently. It brightens my day to know my church family is keeping me in their prayers.

Sincerely,

Carol Dumont

Dear CCC Family,

Thank you so much for the Amazon gift card. It is very helpful and I will put it to good use.

Sincerely,

Allie Seymour

Dear CCC Church Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me during this difficult season. I will be sure to use the Amazon gift cards in good health. I am doing well, despite the pandemic and Junior year of college kicking-my-butt-business!

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Be Blessed.

Elvis Walters

Blood Drive Report

Thank you to all who donated blood at our March 16th blood drive. The American Red Cross collected 24 units. Your continued support of this ministry, now that we are holding the drives on Tuesdays from 3-7 pm, is much appreciated. Our next blood drive will be Tuesday June 22.

Liz Dupuis,

Blood Drive Leader

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> CCC we will be having an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt! Families who are interested in attending should sign up for a 15 minute time slot for their family to hunt for eggs. Times will be between 11:00am -1:00pm. Families will get an email that morning if we need to cancel due to weather. We hope families with children newborn-5th grade will participate in this fun celebration of Easter!

Sign up deadline is March 31st.

Sign Up Genius Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448A8AD2DA7FE3-easter>



## MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Please plan to join us for an inspirational Maundy Thursday worship service (in person and online) at 7 pm on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This service will build on the weekly theme of "AGAIN & AGAIN, WE ARE HELD TOGETHER." No matter who we are, no matter where we go, no matter how great our mistakes or regrets are in life, we will always be invited in and held together by the Living God. Again and again and again, we are forgiven. Again and again and again, we are held.

## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship on Easter Sunday (also in person and online) will feature fabulous music by the choir and Voices4Hymn, a brass quintet and more. We hope you will join us for ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m.



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in place for this meeting.

# 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. Please contact Betty Quicksall by phone/text/email for more information. 636-484-0791 or [bettyquic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bettyquic@sbcglobal.net).

## 40th WOMEN'S INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

Every year the Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis hosts an annual women of faith conference. Several women from CCC have attended over the years. This year's 40th annual conference theme will be *Women of Faith: Beyond Stereotypes to Truth*. The event will be held via Zoom (link for registration not available yet) on April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. More information available at: <https://interfaithstl.org/calendar/womens-interfaith-conference/>

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