



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE, 2021
MESSAGE FROM OUR JUNE SABBATICAL MINISTER, REV. JOHN YONKER

Dear Church:

In my first sermon delivered on June 6th, entitled “A High Calling,” I pointed out that in the early centuries the church developed orders of ministry, deacons, elders, pastors and bishops which soon became paid ministers. But I mentioned these “professional ministers” were not the only “ministers” of the church, for as Jesus has called women from their fields and kitchens, and men from their fishing boats to follow him to become his ministers to share the good news of God’s love revealed through Christ, so God has called us all to become Jesus’ ministers. And in the three weeks I have come to preach for Jacob Thorne, I have already seen how you all have become ministers of Jesus Christ.

At the Core Leadership Team meeting held last Monday evening in the library we talked about the business of the church, going through the agenda which Cheryl Kinney put together, but we ended talking about getting back to normal, with a celebration when Jacob returns in September. Finally, we talked about contacting some of the people to help them welcome back to in-person worship after we have all been vaccinated.

I have known some of your ministers, and several members of your church through my connections with Disciples of Christ congregations through the years, including my home church, the Hamilton Christian Church where I was born and raised, and some of your families which are in the First Christian Church of Columbia.

I encourage you to make telephone calls to some of your friends whom you have not seen in several months, who have stayed away during the pandemic, and I even encourage you to make calls on your family members who have stayed away for the same reason. Also, I encourage you to pray for those who are on the prayer list, to hold them up in prayer for help and healing.

You have my highest regard for allowing Jacob a three-month sabbatical. I had two three-months sabbaticals while Sarah and I served the First Christian Church in Columbia and after both I came back refreshed and renewed, with new energy to continue working in the ministry for Jesus Christ. I am honored that he has asked me to fill in for him while he is away. I hope to see you in church!

John

VBS SUNDAY ON JULY 11th

This year's theme is: Be a part of God's team

We look forward to seeing kids/grandkids/friends for our in person Vacation Bible School on Sunday, July 11th from 2 pm to 5 pm. Children from age 3 (as of 1/1/21) to just finished 5th grade are welcome to participate.



The afternoon activities will include a bible story, craft, science, games, singing and a family meal from 5-6 pm to end the day.

Our **mission** project will benefit Hanna Woods Elementary School. We will be collecting cereal, canned pasta with meat, canned chicken, chili, microwave pasta, mac and cheese, granola bars, juice pouches, applesauce, pudding cups, jelly and peanut butter. We will also have a basket available for cash donations.

Registration forms are due this Wednesday, June 30th.

We look forward to having kids at church for this special afternoon of fun.

HANNA WOODS FOOD NEEDS

This summer, we are filling food bags for 7 food insecure families that are part of the Hanna Woods Elementary School. Items in the bags include cereal, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, beans, canned fruit and vegetables, microwaveable meals and snack crackers. We also supply some perishable items each week, such as milk, bread, fruit and eggs. And, we often have fresh produce from our Bremer Community Garden to share. Please help us this summer by continuing to bring food items on Sunday morning, leaving items in the green tub by the front door during the week or making a financial donation, by cash, check or online. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this ministry to serve others.

MIDEAST CONFLICT PRESENTATION

John and Kristina Houghton will be making a two part presentation during the Sunday school hour on July 11th and July 18th to help us better understand the Mideast conflict involving Israel, Palestine and Arab countries. With the recent fighting and other changes in this region, this presentation is certain to increase our understanding of the situation. All are welcome to attend each session at 9 a.m., as there will be much information to share.



THANK YOU...

Dear CCC Family,

Thank you for the scholarship for college. The CCC Family has guided me through my faith and now gets to do the same through my education. I feel truly blessed to have so many loving supporters.

Love,

Erica Schlueter



Dear Church Family,

I am honored for the scholarship I received. I am very appreciative and grateful. Thank you so much for the opportunity you have given me.

Grace Welker

Dear Community Christian Church,

Thank you very much for the scholarship money to further advance my education. I appreciate all the love and support from my church family!

Sincerely,

Brooke Branstetter

SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE WAS A SUCCESS

We are thankful for church and community friends who made the blood drive on June 22nd a success. There were 34 units collected, the most we have had in several years. We are also appreciative of the help provided by Liz Dupuis, Cherie Ledbetter and Jim Bube to make each quarterly drive a success. The next drive will be held on September 7th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CCC NAMETAGS

We are thrilled to see some new faces in the sanctuary during Sunday morning worship. The worship team would like everyone to start wearing their nametag on Sunday mornings to help us get acquainted with new and old friends. Nametags are in the hallway outside of the church office. If you don't have a nametag, please let us know on the back of the Connection Card in the Sunday bulletin or by contacting the church office.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on July 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

COME GARDEN WITH US

Most of us have purchased fresh garlic at the grocery store, but did you know we are also growing it in our garden? The bulbs were planted last fall and are now ready for harvest. You can see the green stalks growing in the midst of the wheat in the picture on the right. If you'd like to help us dig it up then please join us this Wednesday evening. We plan to continue our Wednesday evening garden events for the coming weeks. We begin around 6:00 and generally have enough to keep us busy until 7:30.

No experience with gardening is required. We'd love to see soon.



Garlic growing in the garden

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