



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ OCTOBER, 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Church Family:

At the end of this month, on the Sunday that is also Halloween, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. The word Halloween comes from the term "All Hallows Eve," which marks October 31st as the eve of All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day, which takes place on the first of November, was originally created by the Roman Catholics as a way to honor all of the saints who have gone before and, especially, those saints who do not have a designated feast day during the calendar year. As Protestants, we have adopted this tradition, marking the day as a time when we affirm that, with the grace of God, we can all be saints in the making.

When I think of saints in the making, I can't help but think of the many fine folks here at Community Christian Church. There are so many ways that the people of our community help one another: offering meals for those who are sick, providing transportation to the doctor, mowing the grounds of our church to keep it beautiful and sacred, serving the community through our Stable sale, praying for one another, singing in celebration, and celebrating both life and death, to name just a few. And in those little acts of goodness, we plant the seeds of faith.

The nineteenth century pastor, poet, and song-writer, Phillips Brooks, who happened to write the hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," was once asked: "Why are you a Christian?" Brooks pondered the question for a few moments, and then replied with utmost seriousness, "I am a Christian because of my Aunt Tillie, who lives in Teaneck, New Jersey."

I never met the Aunt Tillie that Brooks refers to. But I have met many "Aunt Tillie's" here at Community. To all of those in this community who are the unspoken heroes of our faith, know and rejoice that you are, indeed, saints in the making.

May we all, strive to be the Aunt Tillie's of the world.

I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Jacob

CIRCLE OF CONCERN GIVING TREE

Just like last year, we will not be purchasing presents for Circle of Concern clients. Instead Circle is seeking monetary donations to purchase gift cards to distribute to their 2,000 clients. All donations must be received by CCC before Thursday, November 1st so Circle has time to order and distribute the gift cards. If you would like to donate by check, please make it out to CCC and write Circle Christmas Gift on the memo line of your check. There is a Circle of Concern Holiday Fund option on the Vanco Mobile app if you'd like to do an online donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



CONTINUING SERVICE PROJECTS

Isaiah 58 Ministries

We have collected nearly 200 boxes of Jiffy cornbread mix for the Isaiah 58 Ministries holiday food bags for families in the community. Please help us reach our goal of 400 boxes by November 7th by placing your donation in the designated area in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your participation.



UrbanReachSTL

UrbanReachSTL would love a few more volunteers for their 5th annual trunk-or-treat on Saturday, October 30th from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Opportunities include decorating a car and passing out candy to the kids or donating bakery items for a cake walk.

Candy and store purchased bakery donations can be placed in the decorated Halloween box in the Narthex or in the blue tub by the front door to the church.

ARE WE RINGING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY THIS YEAR?

As we approach the Christmas season, we as a congregation need to decide if this year we will once again support The Salvation Army Tree of Lights Campaign by ringing the bell. In the past we have been ringing the bell in front of the Dierbergs grocery store at Manchester and Baxter Roads. Bell ringers volunteer for 2 hour shifts between noon and 7:30 pm from December 13th to December 24th, give or take a day or two. If you would like to contribute your time and effort to this cause, please enter the requested information found on the back of Sunday's connection card bulletin insert or call or email the church office. We will need your name and an indication of when you will be available to ring (weekdays, evenings, Saturday or last minute fill in). Please let us know your availability by signing up THIS SUNDAY. If not enough people are available to participate, we will ring in 2022!

Thanks in advance for your support!

The Mission Team

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on November 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *Educated : A Memoir* by Tara Westover. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the cards and phone calls. They were bright spots in my days following surgery. Your encouragement was helpful. I'm doing just fine and hope to see you soon.

Molly Duncan

CCC,

Thank you for the wonderful 20 year celebration. I have always enjoyed working for you. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Maryann Seib

Dear CCC family,

Words can't fully describe my gratitude for welcoming my family, friends, myself and Elizabeth for a beautiful service.

We were very fortunate to have such a beautiful day to celebrate the life of my sweet daughter.

A special thank you to Beth Bean, Pastor Jacob Thorne, and all the wonderful volunteers, food donors and for all the thoughtful cards.

It was truly a celebration of Elizabeth's life. It was beautiful. She is now resting comfortably in God's glorious kingdom.

With great sincerity,

Ralph Stanley

Our family would like to thank you for making Elizabeth's service beautiful. We could not have gotten through this without you. We deeply appreciate your kindness and expression of sympathy.

Special thanks for all who helped set up and donated the food and drinks.

Peace and Love to All,

Cindy Winkeler (Vickie's sister) and Family

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so excited to announce that we will be starting up our Children's Sunday School program beginning Sunday, November 7th. Children, who are in kindergarten through 5th grade, may come to the back of the sanctuary after the Children's Moment to leave for Sunday School. They will return to the sanctuary before worship is over.

We look forward to seeing children back in Sunday School!



CCC OPERATING RESULTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

	9/30/21 YTD Actual	9/30/21 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$262,904	\$239,996	Timing of giving
WFLC Rental, other income	47,763	30,417	Increased use of gym by basketball groups
Total Income	\$310,667	\$270,413	
Children/Youth/Adult Min- istries	882	3,365	Limited activities due to Covid
Worship/Core Ministries	6,588	9,875	Less special service, choir and misc expenses than ex- pected
Outreach/Mission	19,597	22,299	Discretionary funds availa- ble not yet spent
Property	72,784	88,168	Less lawn, snow removal and building repairs than anticipated
Office/Administration	9,162	11,114	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	152,272	156,337	Sr Pastor expenses and some staff wages less than anticipated
Total Operating Expenses	\$261,285	\$291,158	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$49,382	(\$20,745)	

The financial operations for the first 3 quarters of 2021 have resulted in a surplus. We are on target with respect to offering donations and use of the gym continues on a daily basis.

Outreach giving during this past quarter went to Caring Solutions, Circle of Concern, Bethany Fellowship, Disciples Mission Fund, Christian Church of Mid-America, National Benevolent Association. Isaiah 58 Ministries and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Donations for the Reconciliation Sunday special offering were \$175.

We hope you have noticed the new siding on the church building, the new portions of sidewalk to level it off as you walk from the parking lot to the side church door and a new glass door and concrete patio to Rev. Thorne's office.

We are grateful for your financial giving in support of CCC and its ministries throughout the year.

STABLE SALE WRAP UP

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our final Stable Sale of 2021 such a great success! Without the whole church's help in donating treasures, food, time and effort, it would not have been the success it was! We appreciate everything you do to support us. After the sale ended on Saturday, clients of Circle of Concern came and were able to get items that they wanted and needed. In all we had 77 families (218 individuals) come and "shop". They were extremely grateful to have this opportunity. Thanks again for your support!

AND SOME OF OUR TIRELESS STABLE VOLUNTEERS



Many of these volunteers were here on a daily basis for the two week set up time and for the week of the sale —we can't say thank you enough for your dedication to this ministry!

PUMPKIN DECORATING AND S'MORES

We had a beautiful fall afternoon for treats and pumpkin activities last Sunday. Thank you Susan McGehee, Michael Richardson, Lori Hoover for organizing this fun time together.



BREMER COMMUNITY GARDEN

We have a couple more Wednesday evening work events left before it will be dark at our 5:30 p.m. start time. This week we will need help harvesting lettuce, kale, spinach and planting garlic. Please join us!

BREAKFAST IN WFLC

Fellow Members (men and women) of Community Christian, a question for you?

What would be better than A) coffee/tea with a friend; B) Breakfast with several friends; or C) Listening to a Dixieland/Jazz Band? The simple answer is to combine all three.

Set aside Saturday morning, November 6th for all the above in the WFLC. The Disciple's Men's Ministry is inviting all church members to join us for fellowship starting with coffee, tea, and/or juice at 8:00 a.m. followed by a buffet breakfast at 8:30. To top off the morning will be Jerry Hoover and friends with musical entertainment.

Sign up on the back of the Sunday connection card in the bulletin or by calling/emailing the church office.

Contact Jess Newton or Rich Dupuis for questions.

PRISCILLA WOMEN'S GROUP

Priscilla Women's Group will meet in person on November 9th at 7 p.m. in the CCC Library. All women are welcome for a time of study, prayer, service and fellowship. Study materials are available in the CCC Library. In November, the group will be collecting spices and/or baking supplies to be donated to Isaiah 58 Ministries. You may place your donations in the blue tub by the front door of the church or in the marked basket across from the CCC library.

Please contact Betty Quicksall or the church office for more information.

CCC

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