



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ SEPTEMBER, 2021
MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

As I write this article from my home office, I can see the leaves on the trees changing colors. It is a crisp sixty-degrees outside and the official start of fall has begun. The autumnal equinox marks a time of change, for our planet and for each of us. Transitions and change are a natural cycle of life.

Over these last few weeks, my transition from sabbatical back to ministry has been engaging, energizing, and, at times, a bit overwhelming. My family and I feel all of the love and support that was given to us this summer as we became refreshed and renewed. The Sunday worship where we celebrated our return, and the lunch that followed, was so thoughtful. And then...the work of the church continued on.

We have new challenges to face this fall. Facing the reality that a number of individuals prefer to worship from home, we need to continue to work on how we present, and engage, in our digital worship. Recognizing that the youth are not having Sunday School or active youth groups on a regular basis, we need to pivot to new forms of ministry. One possible idea, just beginning to come to fruition, is having intergenerational “family” groups that meet once or twice a month for food, conversation, and prayer. And knowing that several members of our community are facing serious health complications, we need to be rooted in prayers for healing.

Within the challenges though, there are great joys. Our Stable ministry, setting up for the fall sale, works so hard day in and day out. Their ministry is multi-faceted—serving as a place of welcome for church members, neighbors, and friends. Our garden ministry, thanks in large part to Beth Bean’s guidance over the summer, is still flourishing and going strong—with plans for future expansion. And even the physical appearance of the church is changing—last week the installation of new siding began. Along with the siding, a new outdoor patio will soon be connected to the back of my office where we can meet and converse surrounded by the beauty of nature—it’s really a lovely gathering place.

As always, I am grateful to journey with each of you through the changes and seasons of life.

Jacob

THANK YOU MARYANN SEIB!

Please join us on October 3rd to help celebrate Maryann Sieb, our amazing nursery attendant, who has been caring for our youngest members for 20 years. We will honor her during the church service followed by refreshments in the Narthex. Help us let Maryann know how much we appreciate her love and dedication to our kiddos!



FALL SERVICE PROJECTS

Isaiah 58 Ministries

The Mission Team is looking forward to supporting Isaiah 58 Ministries fulfill their goal to provide holiday food bags for families in the community. They anticipate serving 200 families at Thanksgiving and would like our assistance in collecting food for these special bags. The item CCC will be donating to the Thanksgiving bags this year is



400 boxes of Jiffy cornbread mix.

We will have a basket in the Narthex from October 10th to November 7th for your donations.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

UrbanReachSTL

CARS & CANDY for UrbanReachSTL's
5th ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT
October 30, 2021

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- * Decorate a car and pass out candy to the neighborhood kids
- * Donate candy...LOTS of candy needed!
- * Donate bakery items for the CAKE WALK (Little Debbie's, cakes, pies, cookies)
- * Volunteer at a station (craft table, photo area, food)

To sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4faaaa22a4f4ce9-urbanreachstls>

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on October 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

PRISCILLA LADIES GROUP

Priscilla Ladies Group will resume monthly in person meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 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 October, the group will be collecting pet food to be donated to Circle of Concern. You may place your donations in the green 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.

Dear Friends,

Your many cards and letters have meant so much to Jim and me! They have brightened our days. Thank ou for taking time to connect with us! CCC is a wonderful church—full of outstanding people!

Love to you.

Cindy and Jim Burchfield

STABLE SALE HOURS

October 3rd (Friends and Family) - 11:15 to 4

October 4th and 5th - 9 to 5

October 6th and 7th - 9 to 6

October 8th - 9 to 3

October 9th - 8:30 to 2

You won't want to miss the great bargains!

ENTRY SIGN BEAUTIFICATION

Have you noticed the new stonework around our entry sign? We appreciate the time and talents of Marlan Graham, Karl Doup and Jim Morgenthaler that required a lot of digging, cutting and leveling to make the stonework looks just right. We love how it looks!!



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Join us at the Enterprise Center (outside) in St. Louis and/or if you choose, walk in your neighborhood!

We need everyone now more than ever to register alz.org/stlwalk and/or donate.

**Official Walk Location: The Enterprise Center
(OUTSIDE)**

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Opening Ceremony: 9:00am Walk Start: 9:15am

The St. Louis Walk to END ALZ participant goal is 2,200 online pre-registered participants. For the safety of our participants, we will have a *contactless registration*. Therefore, please register TODAY online at alz.org/stlwalk and join the "Disciples for Hope" team from CCC.

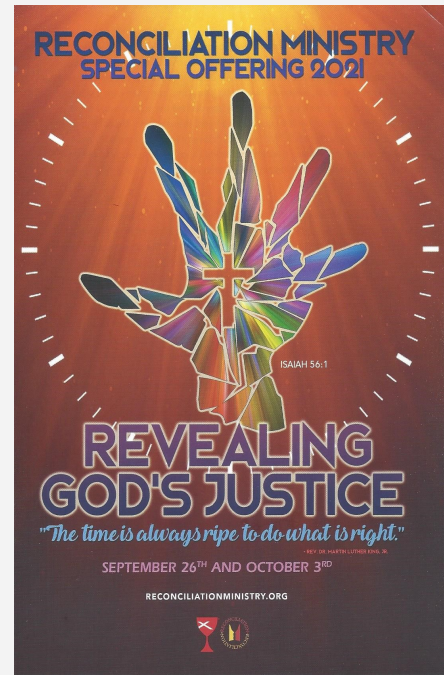
If you are unable to walk, donations to the team will support research to find a cure for this disease.

ONLINE GIVING APP



For those of you who may be using the GIVE+ app for online giving, a new app has been developed to take its place. Effective September 30th you will need to use the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App which can be downloaded from your app store. Your user name, password and giving details will not change.

Contact the church office if you have any questions.



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