



# The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ FEBRUARY, 2022  
MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

Next Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent.

Our Ash Wednesday service, which begins at 7:00, takes its name from the ceremonial imposition of ashes on the foreheads (or wrists) of worshipers—serving as a sign of both our sin and mortality. This ancient tradition, dating back to at least the tenth century, is intended to be a time of both individual and communal reflection.

Traditionally, Lent is a time where we make sacrifices in our life (such as giving up something special for the forty days of Lent) in order to help us become more aware of Christ's sacrifice for humanity. The practice of sacrifice is important. This year however, I challenge each of us to also add the spiritual practice of saying The Lord's Prayer at least once per day—or, if you're really up for a challenge, as many as three times per day. When said with intention and purpose, the Lord's Prayer can lead us more directly to God and to one another.

And, if you are interested in learning more about The Lord's Prayer, and how it may apply to the specifics of your life, consider joining us for a Tuesday evening session, starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, that I will be leading—details of the class are included in this newsletter.

As always, I look forward to once again sharing the season of Lent with one another.

Blessings,

Jacob

Our Lenten devotional is inspired by some of Vincent Van Gogh's most famous paintings and his lifetime interest in light.

Copies of this devotional will be available in the Narthex this Sunday.

VINCENT VAN GOGH  
AND THE  
BEAUTY OF LENT



# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on February 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

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## WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING

Would you like to put your love for others into action? Would you like to help women in Myanmar establish sustainable incomes, or communities in Indonesia develop sustainable farming operations as the climate changes? Would you like to help support refugees around the world, while also responding to disasters in our own local communities? You have the opportunity to do just that this week as we continue to receive a special offering for Week of Compassion—the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

Your generous gifts to Week of Compassion enable our church and our partners to make a difference in lives and communities around the world. The Apostle Paul reminds us, just as he did the Corinthians so long ago, that the greatest expression of our connection to others is the way we love them. We receive this offering with joy, believing that, in all things—*love remains*.



If you would like to make a donation to Week of Compassion you can do that with cash or check placed in the offering tray at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday or you may give online via our website or by using the Vanco Mobile app.

# THANK YOU

Words can't adequately express how much your prayers, cards, and calls meant during the sudden loss of my sweet sister, Mary Helen! It certainly helped to know others were thinking of us! Thanks so much!

Love our Community Church family!

Betty & Nick Rega

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## LENTEN STUDY WITH REV. THORNE

Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.

During this season of Lent, join Pastor Jacob on Tuesday evenings, at 7:00 in the church library, as we study the Lord's Prayer using Adam Hamilton's new book and video series "The Lord's Prayer" as a guide.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. For planning purposes, please RSVP to the church office. And if you would like to order a copy of the book (helpful, but not necessary) please let us know.



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## BLOOD DRIVE NEWS

Thank you to all who came out to donate blood at our blood drive on February 22nd. The American Red Cross collected 35 units from 28 donors. Yes, that's correct! Seven donors who have a certain blood type and met other criteria were able to donate what's called a "Power Red" donation, which is collected on a special machine and counts as 2 units of blood. Jim Bube and Bob Branstetter are our CCC Power Red Heroes!

Our next CCC blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday June 28th and is already open for sign-ups at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

Liz Dupuis and Cherie Ledbetter  
Blood Program Leaders



**American  
Red Cross**

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## PRISCILLA WOMEN'S GROUP

Priscilla Women's Group will meet in person on March 8<sup>th</sup> 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 March, the group will be collecting donations to support the Himalayan Cataract Project. Please contact the church office for more information.

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## SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Warm summer temperatures will be here before you know it. If you're making your families summer schedule, don't forget to include church camp in those plans. There are a variety of options offered through our Mid America region at: <http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>.

Scholarships are available to all campers. Schedule and registration information will be available soon.



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CCC

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