



# The Vital Spark

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A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE, 2022

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

While I am not an avid sports fan (although I do cheer for the Chiefs), I am aware that a week from this Friday the Tour de France will begin. For years now, I've enjoyed watching the speed of the riders, distances covered during each stage, and the endurance of the athletes.

In the Tour de France there are always, almost without exception, a few rogue riders who break out ahead of the group—trying to make it on their own, thinking that they have the strength to go it alone. And almost always, without exception, the remainder of the riders (the peloton), even if a significant distance behind, catch those who break away. The old idiom remains the same: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go as a group.

So this week, I've been thinking of the ways in which the church acts as a peloton and, specifically, the ways that Beth Bean, as Office Manager, works so hard to keep us all moving in the right direction and forging ahead. Beth, as I shared in the last newsletter, will gradually transition to her new role as Ministry Associate. And while I will miss her daily guiding presence, I am grateful that she will still remain on staff and play a vital role in the life of our church. And with such thoughts in mind, I invite you to join us for Beth's "Semi-Retirement Party" on July 3<sup>rd</sup> immediately following worship. We will celebrate with cake, cards, and gifts. Please feel free to send a card ahead of time if you are unavailable to attend.

The Apostle Paul says that we run the race of Christ, but we do not run alone. Thank you, Beth, for your companionship, collegiality, and courage along the way.

I hope to see each of you soon!

Blessings,

Jacob

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, our CCC friend, Kay Gauble, was recognized by the University City School District as a PACEsetter. Those receiving this recognition are individuals who have made contributions to a particular school or the district by Positively Affecting Community Education.

Nominees were evaluated on the following areas:

- Commendable district/school accomplishments
- Above and beyond what is normally expected
- Special abilities that enhance student/school success

Kay has spent over 15 years as a volunteer across the K-5 grade levels.

Congratulations Kay on this special recognition.



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## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on July 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Narthex for a conversation about the book *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

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## THANK YOU

Dear CCC,

I would like to say thank you to everyone that has been praying for our family and for the nice cards that we got from people. It was very thoughtful!

Sincerely,

Pam Welker and family

## SUMMER MEALS FOR URBAN REACH

We had the opportunity to provide a box lunch, including turkey sandwiches, chips, a banana, a bag of cookies, apple juice and a bottle of water, on June 15 instead of sharing an evening meal due to the heat wave we have been experiencing.

We are looking forward to helping with more lunches and dinners (next dinner is July 13) this summer. Please contact the church office if you'd like to participate.



## JUNE BLOOD DRIVE IS NEXT WEEK

We still have a few openings for the blood drive that will be here at CCC this Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Your support is valuable, as it is critically important for the Red Cross to maintain a stable blood supply for patients during the summer months. Sign up today at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).



## PRIDEFEST STL THIS WEEKEND

St. Louis PrideFest will be returning to downtown St. Louis this weekend. There are a few openings still available if you'd like to help with the Disciples booth. They will be distributing communion to any attendee who desires to partake and/or some other small gift. The link to sign up is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448A8AD2DA7FE3-docpridefest1>



## GARDEN UPDATES

The garden produce has been awesome over the past few weeks, even with the heat. We are happy that so much fresh food has been shared with others so far this year, nearly 65 pounds if you're wondering.

Even if you've never gardened before, we would love to have you join us on our Wednesday evening sessions from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you prefer an indoor task during the heat of summer, there are washing and packaging options available as well.

Our donations in the past few weeks have included beets, lettuce, purple green beans, kohlrabi, collard greens, fresh herbs, snap peas and arugula.



# LADIES LUNCH OUTING



What fun these ladies had on their recent outing to The Thomas Sappington House in Crestwood. Built in 1808 during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, this home was built by Thomas Sappington for his bride, Mary Ann Kinkead. In addition to the house and library tour, the ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch at "The Barn."

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