



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ OCTOBER 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

This Sunday is “Pledge Sunday.”

Jesus talked a lot about money. In fact, more than half of his parables focus on the right and wrong attitudes towards money. Jesus saw nothing wrong with those who were financially successful. And Jesus never singled out those who had many possessions. But Jesus did warn about the perils of how we make money, how we hoard money, and how we can fall into the trap of putting money above all else in life. But even with all of the warnings, Jesus proclaims, over and over, that money can also be used for the benefit of all of God’s people.

This year, I have seen the many ways that money, given to our church, has benefitted all of God’s people.

I watched as the seeds that we purchased were planted in the soil and transitioned into plants bearing fruit. Most of the produce we grew and harvested, almost seven hundred pounds to date, went to Circle of Concern where it was given to those facing food insecurity. But some of the produce landed on the kitchen table at UrbanReachSTL where children and youth devoured fresh tomatoes and cucumbers.

I witnessed a family in need receive an air conditioner from the Stable, for free, in the middle of a terrible heat wave that threatened the health and well-being of their family.

I was humbled by an unexpected donation, from a non-church member, that enabled us to remodel the bathrooms in DeWitt Hall.

And I was amazed by the continual support and gifts, in terms of both finances and personal presence, that each of you give, over and over, for the benefit of our community.

In an era when many churches worry about closing, I give thanks to God that we are building, thriving, and growing. And again, this is only possible because each of you manage so carefully and wisely the abundant resources that God has given so freely. All that we have and all that we are comes from God. And you, truly, are stewards of God’s gifts.

Thank you for committing once again to the financial health of Community Christian Church.

Blessings,

Jacob

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Book Club meets next on November 21, at 1:30 pm in the narthex. The November book is *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline. Please contact Brenda Richardson with any questions.

PRISCILLA WOMEN'S GROUP

The theme this year is connecting with others to make the world better and what happens when we do not work together. We are studying Lesson 3 Divine Connections. Exodus 2:4. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov 8th at 6:30 pm in the library.

The service project for November is Toys for Urban Reach STL for the Christmas toy drive. More information below

MISSION UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has signed up for Mission Day or who has donated hygiene items. We should have a successful event.

We are currently collecting Jiffy cornbread mixes to help Isaiah 58 with the Thanksgiving dinners that they provide their clients. We have committed to 300 boxes. We will be collecting them until Nov. 13. Please put them in the box in the Narthex.

In early November we will begin collecting toys for Urban Reach STL's Christmas toy drive.

They need to be at church by Dec. 4th. Gifts should be valued at \$25. No battery operated toys, please. Also, if you purchase a doll, please choose an African American doll.

We are truly appreciative of all the items you have been donating to these projects. Your generosity will bring a lot of happiness to others.



Urban Reach STL

There is still time to help or donate for the annual Trunk-or-Treat!

Join us on October 22nd for a fun candy-filled day.

This is a perfect volunteer opportunity or the whole family!

Sign up in the narthex to attend. You can also drop off candy in the narthex



Men's Breakfast

October 22, 2022

Wunderlich Center

Guest Speaker: Kelly Bratkowski

Thanksgiving Feast

Sunday, November 20, 2022

5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Wunderlich Family Life Center

Ticket on Sale beginning October 23



Mission Day

Mission Day, October 23, will be here before we know it. One of the projects will be collecting and assembling personal hygiene kits for Missouri's Festival of Sharing.

There is a box in the Narthex to drop off your donations.

A list of the items needed are:

1 bottle skin lotion (10-16 oz.)

1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more)

1 toothbrush (in original package)

1 bar of moisturizing soap (in package)

1 bottle of shampoo (12-16 oz.)

1 washcloth

2 razors (disposable)

1 comb (large) or brush

1 hand towel

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

THIS SUNDAY IS PLEDGE SUNDAY

We are in the middle of our annual stewardship campaign when we ask you to pledge your financial support to CCC for the upcoming year. Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to listen to the stewardship sermons in which we **IMAGINE A WORLD WITH MORE**. This past Sunday, Reverend Thorne preached about a world with more hope. The scripture was Hebrews 10: 23-24, *"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."* Through your generous support, CCC has done and continues to do so many good works.... Circle of Concern, Urban Reach, community garden, Caring Solutions, Isaiah 58 Ministries and the list goes on. However, the work is never done and there are many more good works for us to do

We ask for your pledge to allow the finance & facilities team to effectively budget the finances of CCC. Pledges are the foundation of CCC's annual plan; unpledged giving is greatly appreciated but can't be relied upon and used with certainty in the budget. We ask you to **IMAGINE A WORLD WITH MORE** as you complete your pledge card and bring it to church on Pledge Sunday, October 23rd. If you are unable to attend worship, then you can mail or email it to Beth.

Thank you for time and commitment to Community Christian Church.



2149 South Grand Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri 63104
314.776.1410 | www.is58ministries.org

Thank You

October 05, 2022

Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$500.00 as we celebrate 50 years of nourishing our community. What a blessing to have the support of such wonderful people as we strive to be God's presence in the world. Your support is helping to ensure that our ministry will continue well into the future.

Your gift makes possible the many ways in which we serve our community throughout the year. Our guests are cared for in a holistic manner that honors the entire person. They know that their needs are our top priority.

We are excited to share with you that in April, 2022, after serving our guests outside for 2 years during the pandemic, we re-opened our building for inside services. With much needed renovations completed, we are proud to now be a fully choice pantry where guests are invited to shop for a variety of food that their family wants and needs.

Thank you for ministering with us through these past 50 years! We look forward to many more years of serving our community, and we invite you along for the journey.

What a blessing to have such incredible support as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brenda L. Booth
Executive Director
Isaiah 58 Ministries

Sep. 2022

Dear Community Friends -

Thank you ever so much for serving dinner to our Marching Band Members last Friday! Teenagers are always hungry, so the meal was very appreciated.

Sincerely - The Parkway South
Spirit of the Marching Band, Band
Boosters & members ♡

Mission Team -

Thank you so much for your support!! You really are changing lives for the better, and we are blessed to have you as our friend. ♡

Loaves and Fishes
for St. Louis, Inc.

In Christ -
Jacki MacIntosh



CCC OPERATING RESULTS FOR QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

	9/30/22 YTD Actual	9/30/22 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$259,694	\$249,773	Timing of donations differed from expectation
WFLC Rental/Other income	48,757	\$50,897	
Total Income	\$308,451	\$300,670	
Children/Youth/Adult Ministries	1,657	4,875	Limited activities for children and youth
Worship/Fellowship	6,701	10,440	Less special musicians and misc. expenses than expected
Outreach /Mission	22,389	22,444	
Property	81,971	91,603	No winter tree service as budgeted and no major unexpected repairs
Office/Administration	14,027	12,679	
Wages/Expenses	158,403	170,826	
Total Operating	\$285,148	\$312,867	
Surplus	\$23,303	(\$12,198)	

The finances of CCC as of the 3rd quarter of 2022 are doing well. We continue to have regular giving on Sunday morning and by online giving. Our operating expenses have continued to be less than anticipated, primarily because costly property expenses have not been needed and fewer needs for children and youth ministry.

Outreach giving during the quarter went to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Circle of Concern, Caring Solutions, Christian Church of Mid-America, Disciples Mission Fund, Loaves and Fishes, Heifer International and New Horizon Church International (for assistance with clean water in Jackson, Mississippi).

We hope you've noticed the new black gum trees recently planted between the CCC parking lot and the Journey parking lot.

Your continued support of CCC and its ministries is appreciated.



Isaiah 58 Ministries
Buy-A-Bird XXIX



The holiday season is fast approaching. It is a time of family gatherings filled with love and laughter as we celebrate the bounty in our lives.

For many in our community, the holidays also bring the stress of additional expenses surrounding holiday meals and celebrations.

Help us ensure the holidays are bountiful for everyone with a generous donation to Isaiah 58 Ministries.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

Online at:

i58ministries.org/donate

\$30 = one holiday meal

\$300 = ten holiday meals

or mail a check to:

Isaiah 58 Ministries
2149 S. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104
(memo: Buy-a-Bird)



CCC

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Manchester, MO 63021

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