



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ APRIL 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

It is easy to think of Easter as a day—a day of worship, a day of egg hunts, a day of candy, and a day of gathering around the table. But Easter, like its predecessor Lent, is a season. For fifty days the season of Easter calls us to be joyful and celebratory, aware of the newness of life and the truth of the resurrection. We are encouraged to look and see where joy can be found, naming and claiming it for our own lives.

This week, I did not have to look very far.

As we enter into the gardening season, our seedlings are growing strong. Peas planted in the cold soil of early March are beginning to make their march towards their trellised fencing. Garlic that grew all winter, holding its place in the soil, is beginning to lengthen and grow. And the volunteers each Wednesday evening - church members, neighbors, and new friends - all bring great joy.

And then, of course, there is the Stable Sale. The Stable Sale is nothing short of miraculous. Out of nothing a giant sale, full of treasured items, begins to grow. In a time span of just two weeks, the gym goes from an empty building to a full department store. There is something for everyone. But the most amazing aspect of the Stable are the volunteers, full of joy, who make it possible. Week after week, month after month, and year after year, I am always and continually amazed by the Stable workers who make this sale such a success.

And finally, there is such joy to be found each and every Sunday in our morning worship. I love the ways that we gather together, sing our songs, and listen to the Word of God. If you are searching for joy, know that it can be found here at Community Christian Church.

Thank you to each of you for bringing joy into so many places.

Easter blessings,

Jacob

Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, May 15th in the Narthex for a conversation about the book *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.

Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.



A huge thank you to all those who participated in the Easter Prayer Vigil.

So many gave of their time to intentionally focus on what this time of year means to us as Christians. We appreciate those who were Prayer Hosts and made sure we were able to pray safely at church all night.

We look forward to possibly offering this event again next year.

Lori Hoover and Linda Helm



Blood Drive

Community Christian Church

June 6, 2023 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CommChristianCh>

Disciple Men's Breakfast

May 20th

8:00 am - 11:00 am

WFLC

Priscilla Circle Meeting

May 9th, 2023

6:30 pm

Please note this group is open to all women.

We only meet once a month and would welcome anyone new for our short bible study and social hour!

May Senior Citizen Luncheon

Wednesday, May 31

Topic: Dale Chihuly

Sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish for the luncheon

Dale Chihuly's art work can be seen in the Missouri Botanical Garden

May 2, –October 15, 2023

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mission Team Update

Many thanks to those who contributed to the special Easter offering. We raised \$800.

On Saturday, April 15, 11 people from CCC volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children mobile food pack held at Queeny Park. We had a busy 3 hours assembling food packs that will be sent to starving children overseas. It was a fun and rewarding morning.



On Saturday, May 13, we have a chance to help the Ballwin mail carriers with their annual food drive. Volunteers are needed from 12-4:00 to help move bags of food that the mail carriers have collected into trucks. This will require lifting.

On Saturday, May 27, a group of us will be going to the Ronald McDonald House near Mercy Hospital on Ballas Road. We will prepare breakfast for about 40 people who are staying at the house. It has been several years since we have done this, but it is a fun volunteering opportunity that is really appreciated by the people there. We will meet at 7:30 and breakfast will be served at 9:00.

If you are interested in helping with anything you may sign up in the Narthex.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
St. Louis

URBANREACHSTL
TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Friday, June 16th
Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Rd,
Manchester, MO 63021
Doors open at 6:30pm
Trivia begins at 7:30pm

\$200
table of 8
\$300
VIP table of 8
(prime seating, free mulligan per round)

ST. LOUIS

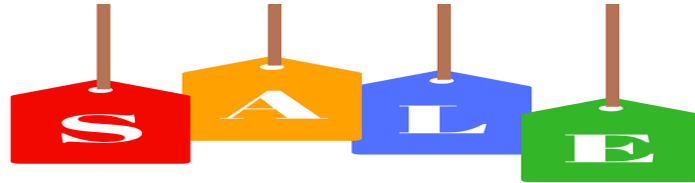
Test your knowledge while sporting your favorite STL sports team attire! Beer, water and soda is provided. Feel to bring your own beer, wine & snacks!

www.urstl.org/trivianight



Friends and Family Stable Sale

April 30th beginning at 11:15 am



April 4, 2023

Dear friends,

John and I so enjoyed being part of Community Christian Church. It was always wonderful to be greeted by so many friendly Disciples.

Our life's journey is now taking us back to Columbia, MO where we are very familiar with this community.

Thank you for your prayers and support over the last few years. Blessings to you in your continued ministries.

Sincerely,
Sarah and John

Sarah & John Yonker

3106 Wind River Ct., Columbia, MO 65203

CCC OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	3/31/23 YTD Actual	3/31/23 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	94,439	93,725	
WFLC Rental and other income	10,229	20,259	Gym rental payments were behind.
Total Income	104,668	113,984	
Children/Youth/Adult Ministries	208	685	
Worship/Core Ministries	3,017	4,190	
Outreach/Mission	5,951	5,933	
Property	34,114	38,062	Lower snow removal than anticipated and few building maintenance needs so far.
Office/Administration	4,899	4,256	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	56,268	56,783	
Total Operating Expenses	104,457	109,909	
Surplus	211	4,075	

The finances of CCC as of the 1st quarter of 2023 are doing well. We continue to have regular giving as part of Sunday morning in person worship and by online giving. Our operating expenses have been less that anticipated, in part because property expenses have not been needed.

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

Our special offering total for Week of Compassion was \$1,665 and the special Easter offering was \$940.

Thank you for your continued support of CCC and its ministries.

Stable Sale

May 1	9am - 5pm
May 2	9am - 5pm
May 3	9am - 6pm
May 4	9am - 6pm
May 5	9am - 3pm
May 6	8:30 am - 3pm

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