



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MARCH 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

These past two weeks I have watched more college basketball than I have in the last two years. For some reason, the fervor and intensity of the games has captured my interest. And I, an armchair basketball player at best, feel free to shout out loud at bad calls and ill-designed plays. But beyond the players of the game, I am also drawn to the fans who attend. The camera loves to capture fans who have their faces, or stomachs, painted with their team's logos high-fiving strangers standing next to them, or even hugging. Where else, or when else, is this ever possible?

For better or worst it seems, crowds can change social norms. And it does not matter if it is for sports, politics, or even public worship. A crowd can dictate the outcome of an event.

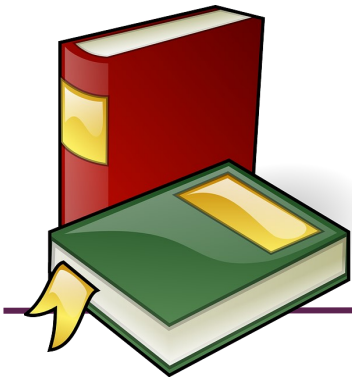
So with these thoughts in mind, I invite you to join us this Sunday as we begin Holy Week. Sunday morning we will have palms available for all in attendance. We will reenact the time when, according to Matthew, large crowds watched Jesus process into the city of Jerusalem. Then, in our Maundy Thursday service we will remember the costs of discipleship, even to the point of death and crucifixion. Our response to the costs of the cross is a prayer vigil from Thursday evening to Friday afternoon (there are only a few remaining spots to be filled). And finally, on Easter morning, we will rejoice with a community breakfast, egg-hunt for the children, and a special service full of wonderful and soul-inspiring music.

This Sunday, come and join the crowd. High-five your fellow worshipper if you want. And join us in singing and celebration.

See you soon.

Blessings,

Jacob



Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday April 17th in the Narthex for a conversation about the book *Breathing Under Water* by Richard Rohr

Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

Men's Easter Breakfast

Join us on Sunday April 9th for breakfast in the Wunderlich from 8:15-9:30 am

If you haven't already please tell us how many are coming on the back of the connection cards



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter morning at 9:15am

Meet downstairs in DeWitt Hall

RSVP on the connection cards by Sunday, April 2

Remember to bring your own basket



Priscilla Women's Group

Priscilla Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 in the library. Our study is Lesson 7 in the book. The scriptures are from Luke 8:1-3, 23:49, 55-56, and 24:1-10. The brave women from Galilee traveled with Jesus at a time when women had no rights and lived under the control of a male family member. The service project will be a collection to support the Himalayan Cataract Project. These doctors provide vision-saving surgery in a remote areas of the world. Join us for a time of study, prayer, and fellowship.

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!

Feed The Need St. Louis

Mobile Meal Packing event on Saturday April 15, 9:30 am – 11:45 am in Queeny Park. If you can help please sign up in the Narthex.



We Are
Witnesses
Acts 10:39

Special Offering Sunday April 2nd & 9th

When you make a gift to Disciples Mission Fund, you **share God's love from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth.**

General Assembly July 29 – August 1, 2023

The General Assembly meets in Louisville, Kentucky July 29-August 1, 2023, it will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered in person.

Register at <https://ga.disciples.org>

Prayer Vigil April 6-7

The Elders, with the support of the Core Leadership Team, are happy to bring back one of our previous practices of a church-wide Prayer Vigil.

As we prepare for our Prayer Vigil on April 6-7, we would like to empower our prayer partners with as many requests as possible. For those who wish, complete a prayer request card and place it in the box in the Narthex. The requests can be as specific or general as you would like. You can include your name or submit them anonymously. During their chosen time, the prayer partners may select these requests from the box to include in their prayers.

We have a few prayer times still available. You are welcome to pray during these times either from home or at church. For further information, you may contact Linda Helm or Lori Hoover with any questions.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our own Wendy Finch who was recently selected as a
2023 Pillar of Parkway.

This prestigious award is presented to individuals who have provided extraordinary service to the Parkway community and exceeded expectations. Way to go, Wendy!



Thank you



**Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY**
Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

December 31, 2022

Pastor Jacob Thorne
Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Rd
Manchester, MO 63021-5550

Dear Pastor Thorne,

We want to thank you and members of your congregation for your faithful support of Circle of Concern, and send this note documenting your 2022 giving.

With your giving, you provide struggling families access to wholesome foods, counseling, community referrals, kids' programs, rent and utility assistance – even education scholarships for some. With your help, they receive extra care and support at year-end, enjoying special holiday foods and gift cards to buy clothing, household items and other necessities.

You help us to serve hundreds of households in our area. These are our neighbors! On their behalf, we thank you, and wish you the very best in the New Year!

Gratefully,

Cindi
Cynthia R. Miller
Executive Director

2022 - Total Donation Amount: \$4,016.00

Please save this receipt for tax purposes. Circle of Concern is an IRS 501(c)3 organization (EIN 237085010). The donor did not receive any goods or services in exchange for their contributions.

112 St. Louis Avenue -- P.O. Box 444 -- Valley Park, MO 63088 -- 636.861.2623 -- www.circleofconcern.org

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March 17, 2023

Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

Dear Mission Team Friends and All!

I know that we must sound like a broken record when we send our thanks . . .

. . . but please know that we continue to be grateful for your support including your recent March gift of \$380.50 for ongoing needs at Caring Solutions!

There are indeed always ongoing needs including helping to supplement the monthly expenses of rent, food, and personal care items for most of the children and adults with developmental disabilities we serve.

Recreational and social activities also depend on gift dollars. We are able to make those dollars go even further when there are times each year that Community Christian Church graciously opens your doors to us in your family life center. We very much appreciate that!

More recently we have been receiving more and more referrals for individuals and families needing crisis services—both in our Valentine Place therapeutic respite home and through in-home services. We are pleased that we can be a source for these families.

Again, our thanks to all of you for all you do and have given over the years. Community Christian Church has been a major source for our success in serving others!

Sincerely,

Sally
Sally Troutman Boyd
Director of Development

We are grateful!

1852 Craig Park Court • St. Louis, MO 63146 • 314-942-7350 • Fax: 314-942-7347
caringolutions.org



February 17, 2023

Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Rd.
Manchester, MO 63021

Dear Congregation:

Thank you for your generous contribution to Heat-Up St. Louis, a not-for-profit public charity, servicing needy households in about 25 counties in Missouri and Illinois and the City of St. Louis. Your funds will benefit qualified needy families with small children, the elderly and disabled, who are greatly in need of energy assistance.

Your donation of \$240.00 will help qualify the needy for assistance and is 100% tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor for assistance.

You can feel comfortable in knowing that we will not post your name and address or amount on our website, and we are forbidden to sell our donors' lists. Although many public charities publish various names and their categories of giving in their annual reports, we refuse to do so, as your donation is considered valuable and private. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call us, or write us.

For your IRS records, please retain a copy of this letter as a receipt, which also certifies that Heat-Up St. Louis has provided only token benefits and no other goods or services in exchange for your tax-deductible contribution in the calendar year 2023. On behalf of all at Heat-Up St. Louis, thank you once again for your support.

Sincerely,
Tim
Tim Gorline
Administrator
Heat-Up St. Louis, Inc.

Donated By **Brown-Caldwell**

A regional energy assistance and public education charity helping the elderly, disabled and needy families avoid unsafe and unhealthy conditions during the heating and cooling seasons.
Post Office Box 868 • St. Louis, Missouri • 63188 • 314.657.1599 • Fax 314.241.1860



2149 South Grand Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri 63041
314.776.1410 | www.is58ministries.org

March 10, 2023

Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$475.50 received on March 10, 2023 for our ministry at Isaiah 58 Ministries. We are blessed to have you as a partner in ministry as we provide much needed resources to people in our community.

As you may know, in April, 2022 we transitioned our services to become a fully choice pantry, offering our guests the opportunity to shop for the food options that best meet the needs of their family. We also continue to offer a free clothing room where guests are invited to select gently used clothing for their households.

We are also excited to share that in 2023 we are re-introducing programming options for our guests, including cooking classes, lunch and learn events and other opportunities for growth.

Each month we impact the lives of over 800 families. As the cost of serving our community continues to rise, we appreciate your support and are encouraged to continue our work of caring for those in need.

Again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We pray good health and many blessings upon you and your loved ones in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Brenda
Rev. Brenda Booth
Executive Director

*Thank you so much
for your
support!*

Maundy Thursday Worship Service is at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 am

CCC
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

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Beth Bean, Ministry Associate
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