



# The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2023

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

Dear Community,

According to the church calendar this Sunday is “Ascension Sunday.” Occurring one week before Pentecost, Ascension Sunday marks the time when Jesus “ascends” into the heavens. The disciples are left staring into the sky and wondering what happens next.

What happens next will be the focus of Sunday’s sermon, but here’s a preview—the disciples find themselves living as witnesses to the ways in which God’s Spirit currently works.

This concept of witnessing to God’s ways has become especially clear to me over these past two weeks as we have interviewed candidates for our Office and Building Manager Position. In both sharing with the candidates, and listening to others involved in the interviewing process, I am amazed, over and over, at how much ministry our church does. We are truly witnesses for Christ in all that we do and are. Here are just a few quick examples:

- Our Stable Crew had an incredibly successful spring sale. We not only helped others in need, but also served as witnesses of Christ to each person who walked through the door.
- Our garden has a new volunteer who discovered us because of our fresh food they received as a client at Circle of Concern. They have joined us to witness and participate in growing food and serving others.
- Our own John Houghton will give a presentation this Saturday at the Men’s Breakfast (where women are also invited) witnessing to his life of faith and the time he spent in the Air Force.
- Our partners in ministry, UrbanReachSTL, will have their summer kickoff this Saturday (volunteers are still needed) and will witness to the community members the goodness and love of Christ.
- Our building continues to be a meeting place for so many individuals and groups, serving as a place of witness for safety and security.
- Our Elders are hosting another evening of prayer, witnessing to God’s presence and praying for God’s children, on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

The list could go on and on, but the idea is clear. We are indeed serving as witnesses of Christ at Community Christian Church and for this I give thanks to God.

See you Sunday!

Blessings,

Jacob

# Pentecost Sunday is May 28th

If you can, please wear **red** to worship.

Red is symbolic of the burning fire of God's love and the tongues of fire that descended on the apostles.

There will be a special offering on May 21st & May 28th in support of the New Church Movement in your region and across the Christian Church Disciples Of Christ.

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR neighbor AS YOUR SELF

DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU LUKE 6:31

JESUS SAID TO THEM GO INTO ALL THE world AND PROCLAIM THE good news TO THE WHOLE CREATION. MARK 16:15

2023 PENTECOST OFFERING MAY 21 AND 28

God IS DOING A new THING

ALL WHO BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER AND HAD ALL THINGS IN COMMON. THEY WOULD sell THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GOODS AND distribute THE PROCEEDS TO ALL AS ANY HAD need. ACTS 2:44-45

Follow Me

GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAD MADE AND INDEED IT WAS VERY GOOD. +GENESIS 1:31

NEW CHURCH MINISTRY www.churchministry.org

THE 2023 PENTECOST OFFERING IS A SPECIAL OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH MOVEMENT IN YOUR REGION AND ACROSS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST).



# Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, June 19th in the Narthex for a conversation about the book, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.



## Disciple Men's Breakfast

May 20th

8:00 am - 11:00 am

WFLC

John Houghton

is the guest speaker



## May Senior Citizen Luncheon

Wednesday, May 31

Topic: Dale Chihuly

Join us as we discuss Dale Chihuly, from his early childhood days growing up in Tacoma, Washington to his career as a world renowned, American glass artist.

## Blood Drive

Community Christian Church

June 6, 2023 from 2:00pm - 7:00pm

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

## PRIDE FEST

Jun 24 & Jun 25 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

1315 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Missouri 63103

The years Pride Fest 2023 theme is "Diversity Creates Community"

This two day free festival brings over 300,000 people to downtown St. Louis to celebrate one of the Midwest largest Pride events!

## SUMMER MEALS FOR URBAN REACH

Again this summer CCC will prepare and serve some lunches and dinners for STL Urban Reach.

We will also host some of the Urban Reach kids at our Bremer Garden on June 14 & June 28

If you would like to help see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex .

## MISSION

We have recently made donations to two organizations that help their communities in different ways.

**Manchester Cares** was an initiative created by the city of Manchester in 2020 to provide help, support, volunteers, and care to those in need throughout the region. They have done several community events, as well as help individuals in emergency situations.

To learn more, go to [www.Manchestercares.org](http://www.Manchestercares.org).

**Sew Hope** is a new organization located in Florissant. It is a community sewing room where people of all ages gather to sew, take sewing lessons, and get to know people in their community. They have sewing therapy groups for people who have experienced trauma. They also work with an organization that helps previously incarcerated women learn to sew and possibly gain employment.

Check out [www.sewhope.org](http://www.sewhope.org) for more information.

Our Pentecost special offering will be collected on May 21 and 28th. This offering benefits New Church Ministry, which supports new Disciples of Christ churches in our region and across the United States.





Dear Karl and Joyce,  
 What a joy it was to meet you and spend time with you! Thank you for making time for me during a busy day.  
 I really appreciated hearing from you why you find giving to Disciples Church Extension Fund meaningful. Your support is at work bringing vitality to Disciples congregations.  
 One of the things I love most about my job is having an opportunity to visit Disciples Churches. And I was so impressed with Community! What an amazing church you

THANK YOU!

have! I hope the Sale went well. Here's a little contribution from me. My husband loves the "tea" set I brought home, and now we have a great excuse for enjoying cake!

Thank you again for your generosity. It means so much!

Warmly,  
 Katy Magesel



Dr. Nicole Williams, Interim Superintendent  
 Dr. Derrick Mitchell, Ed.D. Associate Superintendent  
 Dr. Kacy Seab-Shahid, Ed.D. Principal

May 9, 2023

Community Christian Church  
 623 Meramec Station Road  
 Manchester, MO 63021-5550

Dear Members of Community Christian Church,

The staff of Central VPA High School would like to express our gratitude for your support of our Day of Acknowledgement on April 24, 2023. This has been a challenging year for our school community, but we have been raised up by the overwhelming love we have felt from the St. Louis region. We thank you so much for taking care of our staff and our community partners with the gift of food and drinks. It was much needed and very appreciated!

Sincerely,

*Robin Wolfgram*

Robin Wolfgram, MSW, LCSW  
 School Social Worker  
 Central VPA High School

A big thank you to everyone who sent my Mother cards to wish well her on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Thank you all for making her day so special, and thanks also to the one who sent her an embroidered handkerchief.

- Norman Pereira

# Contemplative Prayer Hour

Building on the positive impact that the Easter Prayer Vigil had on so many members of our church community, the Elders would like to invite you to join us for a **Contemplative Prayer Hour for Our Children on Thursday, June 1, between 6 pm and 9 pm.**

The Sanctuary will be open at this time for anybody who might want to join us in quiet prayer and reflection for an hour or even longer as you are able. For anyone who might prefer to add their prayers from home during this time, it would also be greatly appreciated. The dear children of our world are facing a myriad of anxieties and challenges, and for many children, summertime brings added uncertainties and fears as the relative safety and structure of school are temporarily lost from their lives. As we enter the summer months we would like to bring the strength of our prayers together during this designated time to focus on our precious but vulnerable young ones. You may have young people in your life that are facing other challenges and we would invite you to add your prayers for them to this time as well. There is no need to sign up or rsvp to this invitation. Please just consider joining us in quiet prayer and reflection either in person or from your home. We look forward to the opportunity to raise our prayers together. For those of you who might appreciate a prayer guide, one will be available in the Sanctuary on the evening of the prayer hour as well as in the Narthex during the week prior.

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