



# The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

This Sunday will be our final sermon in the series, “What Death Teaches about Life.” Then, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will start a new journey in the Bible using what is called the Narrative Lectionary.

This style of lectionary, used increasingly by many churches, rotates through a four year cycle of biblical readings. In each of four years, the Narrative Lectionary tells the biblical story from start to finish—starting in Genesis each September, working through the Old Testament until Christmas, and then moving to one of the Gospels and the Book of Acts, in spring.

It’s been a few years since we used the narrative lectionary schedule in worship, but I look forward to finding our stories in the narrative of God’s story and not being able to skip some of the more challenging texts of the Bible.

I also want to note that most of the time I will be preaching from the new and updated version of the NRSV, officially called the NRSVue.

Completed in 2021, the NRSVue has made 12,000 changes in its latest version. Some of these changes are long needed. For example, in the New Testament the Greek word *adelphoi* has been translated as “brothers” in the past, but it also can mean “brothers and sisters;” the newer version adjusts for such changes. There is also an effort to use less archaic language. In the NRSV, Jesus cleanses “a leper.” The NRSVue changes it to “a man with a skin disease.”

It is my hope and prayer that these updates, combined with academic study and personal reflection, will only deepen the influence that scripture has on our lives. And if you have any questions, please let me know.

As always, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings. Worshipping with one another is one of the constant highlights of my week.

Many blessings to each of you,

Jacob



Scan the QR code to schedule a time to donate on September 5, 2pm-7pm in the church Narthex. Call the church office if you have questions. You can also go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter CommChristianCh to schedule an appointment time.



## Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, September 18th in the Narthex for a conversation about the book, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris.

Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.



## Senior Citizens and Community “on the go” Group

September 13th we will be taking a day trip down to the Missouri Botanical Garden to see not only the Chihuly in the garden exhibit but also the beauty of early fall in the garden. We plan to leave the church at 8:45 am and plan to return to the church for lunch together. There is a sign up sheet in the church Narthex. Please let us know if you would like to carpool and if you are willing to drive others. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Priscilla Women’s Group

Priscilla Women’s Group will meet on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 in the library. Our study is Lesson 1, Lamentations 3:19-24. Our service project this month will be a collection of feminine hygiene products for Circle of Concern. Although many families receive food stamps, they can only be used for food items. We invite all women to join us for this time of study, sharing, prayer and service.

## Choir Rehearsal

The Choir has starting rehearsing for the season. We practice on Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome! We typically work on music 3 to 4 weeks out from the Sunday we will be singing the selection. There is always room for new members and absolutely no pressure to feel like you have to be there every single week. If you have any questions please contact Robin Edman.

## Garden Updates

The garden produce is donated to Circle of Concern and also to families of Hanna Woods.

In 2023 we have donated 333 lbs of produce. This includes 92 lbs. of tomatoes, 27 lbs. of beans, 19 lbs. of carrots, and 12 lbs. of spinach. We are planning to plant lettuce and beets soon so that they can be harvested this fall. We will also be planting garlic to harvest next summer!



## Volunteering at Epworth

We have decided to renew our volunteering at Epworth residential program in Webster Groves. We will need 3-4 people to volunteer the last Saturday of the month, for a couple of hours, beginning at 11:00 a.m. We will provide lunch for the kids and do an activity with them. Lisa Belue will be there each time and plan the activities. You may sign up for one time or multiple times.

The dates are September 23, October 28, and November 25. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office.

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

Jacob and CCC -

Thank you so much for the abundance of prayers for Jeremy and his family. All the cards, calls, visits and presence at the vigil, funeral mass and Celebration of Life were so appreciated. Jeremy had many special times at CCC and had a lot of love for those that touched his life. You all will remain in our hearts.

Much love,

Jane and Ron Newton

To the Christian Church -

Thank you for helping me obtain a mechanical chair that lifts me up & down and gives me more freedom of movement. I have MS and cancer. My cancer treatments are keeping the cancer in recession. I greatly appreciate my chair.

Love you all,

Angela

(a friend of Sybil Wasson and Lea Ann Ravens)

# FALL STABLE SALE HOURS



October 2, 9am-5pm  
October 3, 9am-5pm  
October 4, 9am-6pm  
October 5, 9am-6pm  
October 6, 9am-3pm  
October 7, 8:30am-3pm

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