



# The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MARCH 2024

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

Have you noticed? This year, everything appears to be happening sooner than expected: Warmer days have arrived earlier, our lawns demanded their first trim ahead of time, and daffodils have bloomed prematurely. Even Easter has greeted us sooner. Yet, amidst this acceleration, certain pillars of our tradition stand unwavering: Our Maundy Thursday service, our Prayer Vigil, the celebration of Easter Sunday, and the forthcoming proclamation that Christ has indeed risen. These observances remind us that, despite the ever-changing seasons, the steadfastness of God's presence endures.

So, where do we find this unwavering constancy?

Richard Rohr, a renowned writer, priest, and theologian, offers insight through a personal anecdote. While trekking down a trail from his hermitage, Rohr encountered a reclusive monk, known for his solitude, who surprisingly recognized him and offered a profound message: "Richard, when you're out there preaching, just tell the people one thing. God is not 'out there.'" (He gestured towards the sky) God bless you." This brief interaction left a lasting impression, emphasizing that God's presence is not distant but interwoven within the fabric of our daily lives and the natural world around us.

This Easter, our message will highlight that the essence of Jesus' presence represents both a renewal and a perennial truth within our lives. It's a call to recognize the divine not as a distant entity but as an intimate part of our everyday experiences and transformations.

I eagerly anticipate joining you in worship this Sunday as we celebrate the Good News of Easter morning.

Blessings,

Jacob

## Priscilla Women's Group

Priscilla Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 in the library. Our service project will be donations of Diapers for Circle of Concern. Join us for study, prayer and fellowship.

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group meets at Uncle Bill's on Manchester Road. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9am. Come join us anytime you are able.

## Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, April 15th in the Narthex for a conversation about the book, *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.



## Spring Garden Work Sessions

Spring means busy days in the Bremer Community Garden. Join us Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm for gardening and fellowship. If you'd like to help in the garden but are not available Tuesday evenings call the church office to see if there are other times where help is needed.

## Xanadu

Roller skating, disco, Olivia Newton-John and Electric Light Orchestra songs, and our own Voices4Hym director Scott Degitz-Fries playing Danny McGuire & Zeus. It's a show not to be missed. Xanadu is playing at Stray Dog Theatre from April 4th - April 27th (every Thursday, Friday, & Saturday with matinee shows on the 14th and 21st). For more information or tickets <https://www.straydogtheatre.org/>.





## Spring Stable Sale

April 29, 9am—5pm

April 30, 9am—5pm

May 1, 9am—6pm


May 2, 9am—6pm


May 3, 9am—3pm

May 4, 8:30am—3pm



 **Date** 06/01/2024 (Sat.)

 **Time** 12:00PM - 3:00PM CDT

 **Location** Patrick Henry Downtown Academy  
1220 North 10th Street  
St. Louis, MO 63106



If interested in volunteering please call the church office or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex

## Helping Families at Hanna Woods

This school year CCC is going to support thirteen food insecure families from Hanna Woods Elementary on a weekly basis. We have baskets in the Narthex that you can put your donations in.



We are currently in need of:

Applesauce Cups

Cereal, such as Rice Chex or Cheerios

Peanut Butter or Jelly

Nutri-Grain Fruit Bars

### 2024 Offering Update

February Actual - \$28,392

February Budget - \$41,227

2024 Annual Budget - \$327,500

### April Vital Spark

Articles for the next Vital Spark are due by April 15th.

## List of Upcoming Events

March 31—8:30 am Easter Breakfast provided by Disciple Men's Ministry

March 31—9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

March 31—Easter Service

April 2—Garden Work Session

April 9—Men's Breakfast at Uncle Bill's

April 9—Priscilla Women's Group

April 9—Garden Work Session

April 12—Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack

April 14—Stable Sale Set Up Begins

April 15— Book Discussion Group

April 16—Garden Work Session

April 23—Men's Breakfast at Uncle Bill's

April 28—Friends & Family Day at the Stable Sale

April 29—Opening Day for Stable Sale

April 30—Garden Work Session



CCC  
623 Meramec Station Road  
Manchester, MO 63021

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Minister  
Katie Zimmer, Office Manager  
Beth Bean, Ministry Associate  
636.394.2772  
office@disciplesforchrist.org  
www.disciplesforchrist.org