



# The Vital Spark

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A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ APRIL, 2025

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

Dear Community,

We are three Sundays away from Easter.

Subtle, but significant, shifts are underway. The days are growing longer, light is lingering in the evenings, and the trees are slowly waking up with the first signs of green. These are not just the signs of spring arriving—they are also reminders that something deeper and more sacred is unfolding around us.

This is the season when the story of Jesus starts to press in. The Gospels pick up speed. The tension builds. And even though we know where the story is going, there's still something about this time of year that invites us to listen again, maybe even to feel it in a new way.

And maybe, like me, you've found yourself paying closer attention these days—to the ache of the world, to the beauty breaking through, and to the quiet places in your own heart that are longing for hope. This is the gift of the season: it opens us up and creates space for God to speak, even in whispers.

So here's my invitation:

Come walk the next few Sundays with us. Come hear the story again. Come sit with the mystery of it all. You don't need to have it all figured out. You don't need to bring polished faith or perfect answers. Just bring yourself.

These are holy days. And holy days are better when we walk them together.

Blessings,

Jacob

## MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL

For a number of years, Community Christian Church has taken part in a solemn Lenten Prayer Vigil during what is thought to be the time between the Last Supper and the death of Christ on the cross.

The Elders would like to invite the members of the congregation to take part in this time of prayer and reflection again this year. The Prayer Vigil begins immediately after the Maundy Thursday service on the evening of April 17<sup>th</sup> and extends through 3:00pm on April 18<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday.

Member of the congregation will be invited to share prayer requests and concerns that will be compiled into a list for those taking part in the Vigil. A compilation of meditations and prayers relevant to this period leading up to Easter will be available as a resource as well.

The Prayer Vigil is a wonderful opportunity for our church community to come together to contribute to an uninterrupted time of prayer and reflection, one that not only benefits those for whom we pray, but also deeply impacts those who take part in this time-honored practice. The Elders would like to extend a warm welcome to those who will take part in the vigil for the first time and express their gratitude to those who will return to take part again this year.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Please plan to join us for an inspirational Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 pm on April 17th in the CCC Sanctuary.

As in years past, we will share communion with one another, enjoy special music, listen to a meditation by Rev. Thorne, and have a time for personal reflection during the service.



## THANK YOU !

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, food and all you support these past 4 weeks. You are such a loving and thoughtful bunch of Christians! I so appreciate your love.

Janice and Don Walters



## Senior "Fun Bunch" Lunch

Have you ever wondered about some of the different foods eaten during Bible times? We are going to explore this topic (and enjoy a few food tastings) at the Senior "Fun Bunch" lunch this Wednesday, April 9th, at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex.

If you would like to provide a food item for the meal that follows the program, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.



## Stable Easter Sale this Sunday

Easter combines the best of the present with the traditions of the past! The Stable is having their Easter sale of the present on April 6 after church until 4 pm. The tradition of the past will be there with new Easter basket presentations and kids' Easter clothes for Spring, along with unique spring decor things.

There will be a lot of items to check out, so please tell your families, buddies, other parents, grandparents, Facebook friends, etc of this Big Event.

See you on Sunday!



## Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, April 21st in the Narthex for a conversation about the book, *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham.

Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

## CONGRATULATIONS LYNN!

Fellow CCC'er Lynn Richter was recently recognized for her outstanding work in the commercial real estate field.

Way to go Lynn!





## NEWS FROM THE MISSION TEAM

Mission at CCC is ongoing as usual. Here are some highlights:

Ten people from CCC recently went to the Ronald McDonald House and prepared breakfast for the families staying there. Thanks to those who volunteered.

Feed the Need Mobile Food Pack is on Friday April 11, from 1:00-3:30 at Queeny Park. We still have a few slots available if you want to sign up to help.

The Easter Special Offering will be taken on April 13th and 20th. This offering will benefit the general ministries of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

We have recently given a donation to the nonprofit Sweet Babies who provides supplies for babies of new mothers in need.

Thank you for continuing to support these and other service projects.

## PRISCILLA WOMEN'S GROUP

Priscilla Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 in the library. Our study in *Just Women*, pp 55-57 is from Isaiah 43:18-19. The ancient Israelites had been a powerful and independent people, but had been invaded, taken captive and sent into exile. It was hard to look at the future while grieving the past. How do we find hope and look at our own futures when it is so hard to let go?

Our service project in April will be a collection of feminine products to share with Circle of Concern.

Join us for study, prayer, service, and fellowship.

## SPRING STABLE SALE

REQUEST TO ALL CCCERS...

Is your spring calendar filling up? Hope you have the May Stable Sale on it. Friends and Family Day is May 4, starting after church until 4pm. Please come and host relatives, acquaintances, co-workers, Facebook friends and even early responders, showing off the sale and our church.

This sale is a big moneymaker for CCC to undergird many of the church's needed projects and to support many non-profit local charities. Many of you have contributed items and are adding food for the workers, but success comes from YOU encouraging folks to attend. Please help us by highlighting this event on your Facebook page, share our flyer with neighborhood friends, etc. We really appreciate your help with this request.

Thanks in advance! Hope to see you there.

THE STABLE

Sale Hours:

May 5, 9am—5pm

May 6, 9am—5pm

May 7, 9am—6pm

May 8, 9am—6pm

May 9, 9am—3pm

May 10, 8:30am—3pm



Please contact the church office for registration information

# Summer Camp

Come join the excitement, games, and faith exploration at one of our amazing Mid-America Summer Camps!

Registration opens the evening of March 17th !

<https://mid-americaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com>

All camps are by grade **completed**

## Faith

### Adventures

*JYF* (3rd-5th),

*Chi Rho* (6th-8th),  
and *CYF* (9th-12th)

July 21- 25th

### *Try It*

July 24-25

PreK-2nd grade.  
Must Have adult with them

## NEOLA at Jo-Ota

### *Try It Camp*

June 6-7

PreK-2nd grade. Must Have  
adult with them

### *CYF*

July 7-12

9th-12th

### *Elem/Jr*

July 14-18

Elem-2nd-3rd leaves 16th

Jr 4th-5th leaves 16th

### *Chi Rho*

July 28-August 2

6th-7th\*\*

## NW at Crowder

### *Chi Rho*

June 29-July 3

6-8th grade

### *CYF*

July 6-11

9th-12th  
Grade

### *123 Go*

July 13-15

K-2nd

### *Junior*

July 17-21

3rd-5th

### *Combo*

(Junior & Chi Rho)

July 23-27

## Canoe Camp

June 15-19

6th-12th

## Our Faith Our

### Bodies

**Info Coming  
Soon**

8th or 9th (1 time  
attendance)

\*\*Contact Us

With Questions



# Meet the New Members of the CCC Office Staff

We are pleased to introduce you to two individuals who are a part of the office team.

- Stephanie Polster began on April 3rd and has a background in both church administration and teaching. She previously served as the Church Office Administrator at First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis and worked as an adjunct ESL instructor at St. Charles Community College. She is passionate about working with refugees and immigrants, Stephanie volunteers with organizations like Welcome Neighbor STL and Circles of Love. Stephanie finds great fulfillment in her role within churches, where she feels a deep connection to God. In her free time, she enjoys playing the Celtic harp, singing in her church choir, studying Spanish and German, and creating stained glass projects. Stephanie is excited to connect with the members of this congregation and looks forward to contributing to CCC's vibrant church community. Stephanie grew up in Kirkwood, and she now lives in St. Charles County with her husband, two grown children, and two quirky cats.
- Tom Heckert is a semi-retired accountant with extensive experience in financial roles within a number of industries. His daily commitment to health and fitness maintains his vigor. He also likes to read and travel to expand his knowledge and life experiences. Tom looks forward to the opportunity to work for the members of Community Christian Church.

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