

# THE VITAL SPARK

Publication of Community Christian Church

July, 2018



## A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Friends and Family,

Some days, the role of a pastor is project manager. In today's article, I want to share with you a number of upcoming events and pieces of information vital to the life of our Community:

July 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Vacation Bible School. Thank you to our leaders and volunteers for helping make this possible. The seeds of faith that are planted in our children will hopefully grow and develop throughout the entirety of their lives. For some of our young ones, this will be the week where they grow most deeply in their faith.

July 15<sup>th</sup>: Laura McDurmont will update the congregation, following worship, with a brief summary of the overall vision and mission statement, dream team summaries, and possible fiscal plans for the following year.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>: Don Miller and Normal Pereira will begin leading a three session Bible study examining texts of the Bible that address issues of homosexuality. As Christians, we take seriously the texts of the Bible and the role/authority of the Bible in our lives. The goal of the study is not to persuade one way or another, but rather to do serious study of our sacred texts and reflect on how these passages influence our understandings of faith.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>: John Yonker will be leading our service and worship. I will be out of town for our annual summer vacation to Colorado.

July 29<sup>th</sup>: The Core Leadership Team will be leading worship as the girls and I make our way back across the plains of Kansas.

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Following worship, we will have an official vote on whether to accept our new mission and vision statements. Note, we are still accepting feedback. Overall, we have received positive feedback following the original revisions. Don and Norm will lead the second session of their class.

August 7<sup>th</sup>: Stable Sale begins. Since 2007, the Stable sale has given \$333,400 towards debt retirement for the Wunderlich building, \$168,067 in outreach, and thousands of dollars each year in non-budgeted church items such as special facility projects, mission projects, project discretionary money, outreach money and scholarships.

August 12<sup>th</sup>: Don and Norm will lead their final Bible study.

August 19<sup>th</sup>: We will celebrate Sarah's final Sunday at Community. While we wish her the very best, we're sad to see her go. We are currently interviewing candidates for this position.

It will be, and has been, a busy summer. We have celebrated two gorgeous weddings (with one more in August), welcomed new friends in worship, remembered the lives of faithful saints, and have been blessed with wonderful and engaging worship and music.

Thank you for making Community a community.

Blessings,

Jacob



It's not too late to register for next week's VBS, if you turn your registration form in by this Friday. We have an exciting four days of activities planned, including crafts, snacks, stories, recreation and music.

Please call the church office if your children, grandchildren or family friends would like to attend. Registration fee of \$20 per child.

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## LUNCH FOR EIGHT OR MORE

Our July outing will be for lunch at the beautiful Mt. Pleasant Winery in Augusta, MO; please join us! The sign up form is in the Narthex. The Appellation Cafe has something for everyone! Enjoy a leisurely lunch with your church family! Bring a guest! Let's have fun on Friday, July 20, 2018. We will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to the winery together.



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## CCC BOOK GROUP

Discussion of the book *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts will take place on Monday, July 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you would like more information.

## UPDATES FROM FINANCE TEAM

	2018 YTD	2018 YTD	
Description	Actual	Budget	Comments
Offering	155,962	173,627	Reduced giving due to illness and membership changes
WFLC Rental, other income	21,139	14,851	Increased rentals of WFLC
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$177,101</b>	<b>\$188,478</b>	
Children/Youth/Adult Ministries	2,553	4,265	Lower curriculum and event expenses
Worship/Core Ministries/ Stewardship/Pastoral care	4,880	7,250	Choir needs and special service supplies less than anticipated
Outreach	14,657	16,511	Less discretionary spending than anticipated
Property	49,027	54,860	HVAC major repair will be in July, rather than June
Church Consultant	1,705	2,250	
Office/Administration	5,873	6,420	
Debt Service	7,141	6,600	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	106,382	108,253	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$192,219</b>	<b>\$206,409</b>	
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(\$15,118)</b>	<b>(\$17,931)</b>	

Our overall financial picture as of June 30th is very close to what was anticipated. Reduced offering has been offset by higher revenue from rental of the WFLC and lower than anticipated expenses.

Later this month we will be replacing the nearly 20 year old air conditioning and furnace units that cool and heat the sanctuary, with an expected cost of nearly \$11,000.

Your continued support of CCC helps to maintain our church property and provide ministry to many in our area and beyond.

Your Finance Team

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING HOSTING BIBLE STUDY

The Open and Affirming Group (OAG) Task Force would like to invite everyone to three weeks of discussion and Bible study. Our goal is to have honest and open conversations about some scriptures that may be hard to talk about. We would ask that you read the six scriptures below before you come to the study, to be led by Norman Pereira and Don Miller, to help with discussion. We intend to discuss all these scriptures over the three week sessions. Please join whenever you can. If there enough interest, we will consider scheduling additional sessions.

Genesis 19:1-5

Leviticus 18:22

Leviticus 20:13

Romans 1:26-27

I Corinthians 6:9-11

I Timothy: 1:9-10

We would also ask that you contemplate your favorite verse of the Bible, and come with that in mind. Please mark your calendars now for July 22nd, August 5th and August 12th during the 9 a.m. Sunday School hour in the CCC Library.

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## STABLE MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Come and All---

Would you like to support your church? Experience fellowship and have pride in service? Come one and all--- volunteer at the Stable! We have a Big Sale coming up August 7th to August 11th, our second sale of 2018. We love volunteers and help is needed full time starting July 30th to August 6th, during the hours from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. for set up. We can use talents of any nature and an infusion of energy is surely needed now due to age, illness, death of several of the Stable regular volunteers. You can only imagine how great your contribution really will be to your other church folks. They'd love getting to work with you in fellowship. This is a great cause as many families in the neighborhood rely on this sale to supply much of their needed clothes and goods. We like to display your contributions in a fun respectable way and your help could make all the difference.

Maybe you need a new vision and encouragement to serve others right where you are. The Stable can provide such daily joy, please come give us a try and volunteer using the action you can make to accomplish this big project. Churches reflect Jesus' mission here on earth, come kindle your mind and spirit with others at CCC. This is a personal message just for you the reader, don't pass it off--- write down on your smartphone scheduler or your wall calendar-----volunteer at the Stable.

Welcome and see you there. God Speed.

Stable Ministry at CCC

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear CCC Family,

I am overwhelmed by the out-pouring of your love and support with regard to my father's passing. My father enjoyed attending CCC worship and dinners over the last several years.

The cards, prayers, and attendance of his visitation and service were so very much appreciated.

Cathy Schlueter and family



I was excited to use the Target gift card sent to me by my CCC family this spring for a few household items. Thanks to everyone who might have contributed to adding a little light in this college kid's day!! It is awesome to know that I have a congregation of people thinking about me, even while I'm at school.

Much Love and God Bless,

Andy Hoover



Dear CCC,

Thank you so much for the scholarship! I am so grateful to be a recipient!! The money will be very helpful and greatly appreciated towards my college tuition!

Thanks again,

Madison Bumeter



Thank you to all who donated blood at our last blood drive. The Red Cross was able to collect 21 pints of blood which will help up to 63 people in need. Summer time is always a challenge to maintain an adequate blood supply, so these life-saving gifts are much appreciated. In case you missed our blood drive, please consider donating blood in the next month by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to find a drive near you by entering your zip code. Our next church blood drive will be in 3 months on Sunday, September 23rd.

Thanks again for your support.

Liz Dupuis





Several members from CCC, along with family members of Loyalty and Don Miller, spent all or part of the week of June 24th in Van Buren, MO helping several families rebuild their homes after damaging floods that took place early in 2017. Water from the Current River went uphill for more than 1/2 mile to damage most of the town. Total cost of the destruction has been estimated at \$13 million, including the complete loss of the church pictured above. It has not been replaced due to lack of funds. Catholic Charities has organized for the reconstruction effort on the homes the team from CCC worked on. Thank you to all who supported this project in some way, through your monetary gifts, prayers and/or talents. We are especially grateful to Don and Loyalty Miller for their coordination of the trip details.

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