

December
2018

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community,

Technically, according to the church calendar, I'm writing to you in the New Year. And this New Year is off to a wonderful start. I am so proud of our church and community. In 2018 we accomplished four major goals: 1) We officially adopted our revised constitution and governance structure; 2) We created and adopted new vision and mission statements; 3) We voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation; and 4) We launched our new legacy fund. All of this took the hard work and dedication of many. For this I give thanks.

Now, the fun can really begin! The last several years have been spent regrouping, reorganizing and restructuring. With the necessity of such tasks accomplished, we can focus on welcoming new friends, strengthening old relationships, and dreaming about the future. And we can do all of this with a balanced budget for both this calendar year and next (with the outreach staying at a strong 8%).

One of the major goals for 2019 will be the new Joe and Betty Bremer memorial garden. For several years now, I have dreamed and prayed about creating a garden not only for our community, but also for the greater community (our neighbors). And now, with memorial funds available from the Bremers, we are going to create a community garden that has a small greenhouse, hoop house (allowing for an extension of the growing seasons), two large raised beds (maintained by members and friends of CCC) and fifteen (to start with) smaller individual beds for CCC friends or friends in the neighborhood. We are actively drawing plans for the new garden and once this is completed, we'll be sure to share all of the information. If you would like to help with the garden, maintain a bed, or participate in a scheduled work day this spring as we put it all together, please let me know. The possibilities for this new ministry are endless—donating fresh food, cooking classes, canning classes, conversations on faith and ecology—and all very exciting!

Finally, just a quick note to say, as I did in worship two weeks ago, thank you for a glorious five years of ministry thus far. I am truly blessed to serve a church with such committed individuals and Christ followers. We have accomplished a lot these past five years and I look forward to seeing what God has planned for us next. Thank you for loving me and my family so deeply.

Many blessings during this season of Advent,

Jacob

Christmas Eve Services

Family Friendly Service at 3:30, childcare provided
Traditional Service at 7:00, no childcare

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Kick off your winter break by doing something that illustrates the true meaning of Christmas.

Join us in spreading holiday cheer by ringing the Salvation Army Bell on

December 21st from 6-7:30 pm

at Dierbergs



God's Kids Choir



We enjoyed the performance of "The Next Noel" by the God's Kids Choir earlier this month.

Thank you kids, directors, family and friends for participating in and supporting this ministry.

Looking forward to the spring show in May, 2019.

Amazon Purchases To Benefit CCC **You shop. Amazon donates.**

Don't forget to log on to smile.amazon.com when you make an Amazon purchase.

Select Community Christian Church as your charitable organization.

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to CCC.

Christmas Outreach

Columbia Elementary School

This Sunday will be the final opportunity to drop off small toys, books, games, etc. for the children of Columbia Elementary School. All donations will be sorted and wrapped down in DeWitt Hall following worship this Sunday. Please let Diane Hall know if you'd like to help deliver the gifts to the school on Monday, December 17th.

Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army

There are still a several opening for CCC's commitment to Ring the Bell at Lafayette Center Dierberg's. They are: December 15, 6-7:30; December 18, noon-2 and 2-4; December 19, 4-6; December 20, noon-2 and 2-4; December 22, 10-noon, 4-6 and 6-7:30.

Please sign up in the Narthex this Sunday, contact the church office or Ted Herman if you would like to help.

Thank You

December Blood Drive Results

Thank you to all who donated blood at ur last blood drive. The Red Cross was able to collect 18 pints of blood which will help up to 54 people in need. Holiday 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 to find a drive near you by entering your zip code.

Our next church blood drive will be in 3 months on Sunday, March 17.

Thanks again for your support.

Liz Dupuis

Sunday Morning Fellowship Volunteers

We have appreciated the wonderful food items organized and donated this month by: Cindy and Ted Herman on December 2, Priscilla Ladies Group on December 9, the Aaron, Keen and Mohr families on December 16 and many special cookie baker's (coordinated by Cindy and Ted Herman) on December 23.

Cookie Bakers Needed

You have an opportunity to participate in the 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Party which will be held on December 23 after church. Please bring 2 dozen homemade cookies to church that morning. You can sign up on the back of the attendance tab this Sunday or let Cindy Herman know that you will be bringing cookies!

Thanks so much for sharing with your church family!

Fellowship Activities at CCC



Men's Breakfast at CCC



Fellowship Followers Christmas Party
hosted by the Doup's

SAVE THE DATE



2019 General Assembly, July 20-24
Des Moines, Iowa

Learn more at <https://ga.disciples.org>

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