

January
2019

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community,

This coming Monday, as a nation, we celebrate and honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

You may remember how several years ago, drawing on one of King's lesser known sermons "The Drum Major Instinct," there was a controversy over the inscription on a new memorial in D.C. recognizing King's life. The original inscription read: "I was a drum major for peace, justice, and righteousness."

What King actually said was: *"If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. (Yes) And every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize-that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards-that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school. (Yes)*

I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. (Yes)

I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody.

I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. (Amen)

I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. (Yes)

And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. (Yes)

I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. (Lord)

I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. (Yes)

He then says, *"If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."*

When you take out the word *IF*, King's sermon reads quite differently.

In other words, King did not want to be remembered as the drum major standing out in front. Rather, King wanted to be remembered as the one who had been called to serve God and humanity.

This weekend we will celebrate at Community. We will honor our leaders—both incoming and outgoing. And I am honored and privileged to say that every single one of our leaders marches to the same beat of servant leadership that King described in his sermon. The leaders of Community lead not for recognition, but for service—service to God and service to one another. It is a blessing to serve with such leaders. I look forward to celebrating with them and with you.

See you Sunday!

Jacob

God's Kids Choir

All children from K-5th grade are invited to join the choir group starting this Sunday from 4-5 p.m. in the choir room. They will begin practice for the spring musical, *Arkeology*. Please contact Sandy Schleusner, Lindsay Mohr or Mark Monroe if you have any questions.

Calling All Youth!

Youth Sunday planning will begin this Sunday, January 20th from 4-6pm in the WFLC. Your input for this annual worship service is important to its success.

Future meeting dates:

January 27, 4-6pm, WFLC

February 10, 5 pm, set/sell soda at chili cook-off, WFLC

February 24, 4-6pm, WFLC

March 2, Youth Sunday practice, time TBD

March 3, Youth Sunday

Children's Sunday School News

Dear Families –

Happy New Year! We hope with the new year come many blessings for your family!

The teachers this Winter/Spring will continue to be Michael Richardson, Stacey Rawls, Susan McGehee, and Margo Keen (who taught SS last year). Our youth helpers are Allyson Monroe, Sarah Monroe, Hannah Don-sky, and Elizabeth Stanley.

We will continue to use the Deep Blue curriculum. For those of you who would like more information about the stories, curriculum, and ideas of ways to extend what we do in SS at home, there is an app for that! The app is Deep Blue Adventures.

Listed below are the Bible stories that we will be hearing in the coming months:

January - **Jesus Heals, Jesus Heals a Young Woman, Jesus Heals 10 Men**

February - **Families Remember God, Family Traditions, A Family's Faith, Family Proverbs**

March - **The Stories of the Lost, The Forgiving Father, The Two Debtors, The Last Supper, In the Garden**

Offering: Our offering will continue to go towards supplies for Hanna Woods Elementary and Columbia Elementary.

Looking ahead:

Vacation Bible School: We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to coordinate VBS this summer. The dates have not been set and will be determined by the coordinators. There is a VBS Directors Guide with details of all that is required to coordinate VBS and we have notes from past years of VBS to guide you. Susan McGehee/ Beth Bean would be available to help also. We have many people that volunteer every year in different areas of VBS, so we always have plenty of help! Contact Susan McGehee with questions or to volunteer!

2018 Year End Financial Update

Line Item	Dec 2018 YTD Actual	Dec 2018 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$370,412	\$356,113	Unanticipated donations in last quarter
WFLC Rental, other income	36,665	25,194	Increased rental of WFLC
Total Income	\$407,077	\$381,307	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	4,501	10,060	Less spending than anticipated
Worship/Core Ministries/ Stewardship/Pastoral care	11,737	16,160	Less spending than anticipated
Outreach/Mission	33,860	32,505	Offering and other income exceeded budget
Property	99,078	96,031	HVAC repair higher than anticipated
Church consultant	1,705	3,000	
Office/Administration	12,671	12,990	
Debt Service	12,814	13,200	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	207,960	219,796	No youth director after May, 2018
Total Operating Expenses	\$384,326	\$403,742	
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$22,751	(\$22,435)	

Offering receipts in the final quarter of 2018 exceeded budget by \$22,400. These donations, along with close monitoring of expenses, helped CCC end the year with a surplus.

We look forward to approving the 2019 balanced budget proposal at the congregational meeting this Sunday immediately following worship.

Special Day of Celebration this Sunday

Please join us this Sunday for a special worship service and fellowship luncheon celebrating our church's new Mission and Vision Statements, our Welcoming Statement, our new recognition as an Open and Affirming Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and our outgoing and incoming leaders, elders and deacons.

Outreach

Columbia Elementary School

In February, the Mission First Team would like to provide all students at Columbia Elementary with a smile by giving them a new toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. If you'd like to help, please bring a tube of toothpaste to CCC any of the next 3 Sundays and place it in the decorated box in the Narthex.

Food Donations for Hanna Woods Families

Baskets are located in the Narthex for your donations of food items for the families we support at Hanna Woods Elementary School, just a short distance from CCC. The healthy food options that are especially helpful on days when school is not in session include:

- *Peanut butter/jelly
- *Canned fruit and vegetables
- *Snack crackers/granola bars
- *Individually packaged fruit cups/applesauce cups
- *Juice boxes
- *Cereal

Blanket Making for Project Linus

All women and youth are invited to participate in the annual blanket making activity organized by the Priscilla and Rebecca Ladies Groups. This year's activity will take place on January 26th (snow date of February 2) in CCC's DeWitt Hall from 9—11:30a.m. Please bring scissors, a cutting wheel and cutting board if you have them, and matching fleece in 1 1/2 or 2 yard sizes. Please contact Liz Dupuis, Linda Newton or the church office if you have any questions.

Addresses of College Students Needed

The Rebecca and Priscilla Ladies Groups will be sending a special gift to all CCC college students next month. If you have a son/daughter in college, please give the office their current mailing address by February 17th.

#CourageouslyServing

Happy New Year from the Mission First Dream Team! We look forward to celebrating all of the amazing service and outreach that our CCC members and leaders are engaged in throughout 2019, and to discovering new and exciting ways to serve our local, regional, national and international communities.

Reflecting language from our new CCC vision statement we will be branding all of our communication in the coming year with “#CourageouslyServing” and we invite all of you to be courageous in serving with us! If you are interested in joining the Mission First leadership team, or would like to be connected to one of the many service opportunities that are available at CCC please contact Marty Eckelkamp.

For January please remember our ongoing service of feeding the hungry through the Circle of Concern and the Hanna Woods weekend backpack programs. Collections for donations for the Circle can be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex, and those for Hanna Woods can be placed in the baskets in front of the Nursery window in the Narthex as well.

Stay tuned for an announcement of the date for our Spring Service Sunday.

Elder's Chili Cook-Off and Auction



It's Almost CHILI Time!

The weather this year has been strange so we may or may not have weather that makes us "chili" right now, but the Elders want you to begin thinking "chili!" Our annual Chili Cook-Off and Auction will be held on February 10 at 5:30pm. We need 8 people who would like to enter their chili in the competition (2 gallons needed) and bakers/crafters to donate items for the auction. If you would be willing to do either, please sign up on the back of your Sunday attendance tab. Ticket sales will begin on January 20. If you signed up to bring an item for the auction, please give it to Cindy Herman by February 3. Please contact Cindy with any questions.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this EXCITING EVENT!

Thank You

Fellow Christians,
Linda and I would like to thank all of you for the cards and food during our recent health problems—and most of all for the prayers and love you showered upon us. Grace to all,
Jess and Linda Newton

Senior Citizen's Lunch

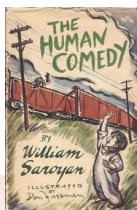
Mark your calendar for our next lunch on Thursday, February 7th at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex. We have a special program, *"Magical Melodies of Love"* thanks to the talents of Jerry Hoover.

Hope you will join us! Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

At our Christmas Eve services we collected a total of \$631 which will be split between Christian Church of Mid America and the mission work of Debbie and Larry Colvin, currently in the first of a three year mission position in Ghana. Thank you for your generous donations. A link to a recent article by Larry about their work in Ghana is below. https://www.globalministries.org/_uno

CCC Book Group



The CCC book group will meet on January 21st at 1:30pm in the CCC library to discuss Human Comedy by William Saroyan. Please contact Brenda Richardson to learn more.

Summer Camp Opportunities

Warm summer temperatures will be here before you know it. If you're planning your families summer schedule, don't forget to include church camp in those plans. There are opportunities offered through Mid America (<http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer/>) and through United Church of Christ Camp MoVal (www.campmoval.org).

Scholarships are available to all campers. Please contact the church office for more information.



Christian Church of Mid-America

2019



Save the Date

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

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

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