

October
2019

The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community Family and Friends,

I am so proud of each of you for your hard work, dedication, participation, and support of our ministries.

This fall has been a busy season in the life of our church. We have so much to be thankful for: our day of service and mission, our budding relationship with UrbanReachSTL, our successful Stable ministry, the soon to be elimination of our remaining building debt, and the ongoing planning for next year's 2020 budget.

In my message this past Sunday I referred to the three degrees of influence. According to this theory, "Everything we do or say tends to ripple through our network, having an impact on our friends (one degree), our friends' friends (two degrees), and even our friends' friends' friends (three degrees). Our influence gradually dissipates and ceases to have a noticeable effect on people beyond the social frontier that lies at three degrees of separation".

Put another way, this past weekend we had at least 100 individuals share in acts of service and mission. And if each person during their time of dedicated service interacted with at least five different people our circle of community and influence grew exponentially: 500 people in the first degree of influence, 2,500 people in the second degrees and 12,500 people in the third degrees. Our daily acts of influence can truly impact an entire community and make a difference in the world.

I am grateful to serve a church dedicated to mission and service both within and beyond the walls of the building. Again, thank you for your hard word and ministry this fall.

Blessings,

Jacob

Senior Citizen's Lunch

Our November 7th lunch topic will be "*The Old Farmer's Almanac*". How many of you are faithful Almanac readers? This is a great time of fellowship for all seniors. And plan to stay for Bingo following lunch—there are great prizes!!

A sign up genius has been created for anyone who would like to donate a food item for the meal. Please use the following link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090448A8AD2DA7FE3-food2>

Please contact Beth Bean or Lori Hoover with questions or if you need a ride!

Ladies Groups Meetings and Service

The ladies of the Priscilla Ladies Group will meet at 7 p.m. on November 12th in CCC library and Rebecca Ladies Group will meet on November 19th at 9:30 a.m., also in the library. Both groups have a time of fellowship, study, service and prayer at each meeting. In November they will be collecting Size 3 diapers for Circle of Concern as their service project. Donations may be placed in the marked basket across from the CCC Library. Please contact the church office to learn more about either of these groups. All women are invited to attend the monthly meetings.

Trivia Night at CCC

On November 2, 2019, join us for the inaugural CCC Monster Mash Trivia Bash!! This year, all proceeds will go to the Clearly Seeing 20/20 Capital Campaign. Doors of the WFLC open at 6:00, with trivia starting at 7:00pm! There will be water, soda, beer and popcorn for your love offering. Tables of 8 can be purchased for \$100 or individual tickets for \$15 each. This is a family friendly event and there will be babysitters in the church building for the littlest of the littles. The event will feature mixed trivia rounds, games in between the rounds, 50/50, and a wine pull.

Get your crew together, dust off your trivial knowledge, dress up or decorate your table in a Halloween theme and get ready for a good time!

We already have 17 tables sold! We would love to see your non-CCC friends too!

Committee members are: Laura McDurmont, Chris Fairchild, Mel Fairchild, Jill Chaney-Lipe, Julie Swaney, Stacey Rawls, and Keith Boyce



Stable News and Circle of Concern

On the last day of the October sale, Saturday, October 12th, clients of Circle of Concern were able to come to the Stable Sale and get items they needed or wanted free of charge. 293 people were served through this mission of the Stable. They took dishes, linens, clothing, Christmas and Halloween decorations, shoes, toys and other items too numerous to mention! All went away with a smile on their faces which is one of the Stable's goals for all its clients!

Mission and Service in Action

Thank you CCC for your candy donations and volunteer support for the Trunk or Treat event at Urban-ReachSTL on October 19th, followed by Service Sunday on the 20th. Thanks to the Mission First Team for organizing the various activities and to all who participated.



Global Ministries Update on Colvins' Ministry

As many of you know, Debbie and Larry Colvin are currently serving a three year placement as Global Ministries mission co-workers serving with the Evangelical Presbyterian (EP) Church, Ghana. Thanks to many generous donations, almost \$127,000 has been received by Global Ministries toward the total needed of \$203,000. If you'd like to read more about this ministry or make a donation, please use the following link. <https://donate.globalministries.org/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=10127462&trid=a90adfb3-0311-4f98-a24a-ec6b3ee7e4da>

There will be a Global Ministries People-to-People Pilgrimage to Ghana in 2020—applications are due October 31. Use this link to learn more. https://www.globalministries.org/pilgrimage_to_ghana_2020



New Key for Wunderlich Family Life Center

Tomorrow, October 24th, we are having the front door lock for the Wunderlich Family Life Center changed. If you currently have a key, please contact the church office and a new key will be ready for you to pick up from the office on Sunday or at your earliest convenience.

Open and Affirming Celebration

Community Christian Church will be recognizing the one year anniversary of becoming an open and affirming congregation on Sunday, November 10th. We will host a story-telling session in the Narthex during the Sunday School hour. Refreshments, provided by the O&A team, will begin at 8:30 and storytelling starts at 8:45. We are looking forward to a special morning of celebration.

Men's Breakfast at Uncle Bill's

Did you know that CCC Men meet for breakfast at Uncle Bill's (on Manchester Rd.) every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:00AM? There is no set agenda, just good food, good conversation and camaraderie. **So come and join us.** Also, in those months when there is a fifth Tuesday (e.g. this month on October 29th) the men (with spouses or significant others) meet for lunch at the Lazy River Grill (Big Bend and Sulfur Springs Rd.) at 11:30 a.m.

All CCC Men are invited (bring a friend if you're so inclined). For further information contact Dean Grubbs or the church office.

Thank You

Dear CCC Family,

Your love and support as we adjust to the passing of our mom, Jean Burt, has sustained us through a very difficult time. We are so grateful mom began worshipping here so many years ago because the mission and the people have been huge sources of strength and comfort throughout our lives. Thank you for doing what you do—loving unconditionally and sharing your faith.

With our deepest gratitude,

Karen Lehman, Glenna Allen and our families

Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on November 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library for conversation about the book *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje. At this meeting, we will choose books for 2020. Come and bring your suggestions. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

Financial Update through September 30th

Line Item	Sept 2019 YTD Actual	Sept 2019 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$271,145	\$263,085	Timing of donations varied more than anticipated
WFLC Rental, other income	29,372	25,622	Increased rental income and beneficiary income
Total Income	\$300,517	\$288,707	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	2,428	5,495	Less spending than anticipated
Worship/Core Ministries/ Stewardship/Pastoral care	8,479	13,780	Fewer choir musicians and worship supply expenses
Outreach/Mission	22,923	23,401	
Property	77,671	74,595	More snow removal than expected, HVAC repair in spring and lighting improvements in sanctuary
Office/Administration	9,176	9,875	
Debt Service	5,115	8,367	Extra payment of loan principal has reduced anticipated interest charges
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	144,227	153,992	1 less childcare worker than budgeted, lower social security expense than anticipated
Total Operating Expenses	\$270,019	\$289,505	
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$30,498	(\$798)	

CELEBRATING OUR 20/20 VISION PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

If you didn't receive a mailing about our campaign to support our 2020 operating budget and building enhancements last week, extra copies of the letter and a 2020 support card are available in the Narthex.

TAX TIPS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

Come learn more on October 27th **following worship** to learn about income tax strategies related to charitable giving. This session will be presented by Cathy Schlueter in the CCC Library.

WUNDERLICH FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEBT RETIREMENT PARTY

On December 8th, we will have a catered lunch in the Wunderlich Center following worship to celebrate the retirement of all debt on the Wunderlich Family Life Center. This accomplishment has been made possible by the generous donations of CCC members, friends and Stable Ministry. Please mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this special celebration in the life of CCC.



Thanksgiving Feast Dinner

It's hard to believe! Our largest annual church family gathering, the Thanksgiving Feast, is right around the corner! It will be on Sunday, November 24th in the WFLC from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This has become an exciting tradition where we can all gather together with our guest family members and church family.

Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex starting this Sunday. Prices will be \$10 for adults and children 10 and over, \$6 for children ages 5-9 and no cost for children 4 and under. If financial assistance is needed for you to bring your family to this special evening of fellowship, please contact the church office.



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