

January  
2020

# The Vital Spark

## NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Community Family and Friends,

As I write this article, we are quickly headed into the New Year. I am so thankful for all we accomplished in 2019 and the many incredible missions and ministries we have at Community.

Looking ahead to 2020, our strategic plans include:

The official launch of our community garden. This will include: fencing, water lines, outside dirt being brought in for raised beds, seeding, planting, weeding and harvesting all while focusing on the main goal—building relationships rooted in the love of Christ and being stewards of God’s creation. As plans progress, more information, including times for workday sign-ups will be available.

The continued enhancement of our communications and community awareness. We are in the final stages of launching an updated website and installing a new sign at the front entrance of the church.

The continued promotion of the Wunderlich building. This year, we want to advertise and promote our amazing facility and partnership with Julie Swaney and Limelight Events more fully.

The continuation of our ministry with Urban Reach St. Louis, especially as they begin the process of revitalizing a local church building in the neighborhood and repurposing it for God’s use in the community.

The continued study of our narrative lectionary—focusing on the entire narrative of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. So far, it has been a very rewarding experience to work through these texts and stories.

Finally, I want to share with you some more personal news and updates.

Over the last few years, my mother has been diagnosed with a progressive neurological disease. It has been, and is, unsettling. Some days are better than others, both for her and the family. In response to this news, the Core Leadership Team has granted me the opportunity to be gone one Sunday a month in order to spend time with my mother and family. Additionally, I plan to take a two-month sabbatical in September and October (along with one additional month in 2021) for rest and renewal.

As we move into year number seven as pastor and congregation I am extremely, and humbly, grateful for this radical gift of renewal, time with family, and opportunity to breathe a little more deeply. To serve in a church that not only honors, but even encourages me, as the pastor, to take time for healing and family is a gift that goes beyond words.

I ask that you keep me and my family in your prayers and I am always praying for each of you.

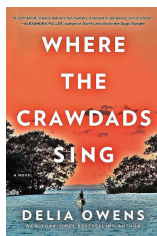
Moving into this new decade, I am so thankful for this Community.

Blessings,

Jacob

## Ladies Groups' Meetings and Service

The ladies of the Priscilla Ladies Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the CCC Library. Rebecca Ladies Group will meet on January 21<sup>st</sup>, also in the CCC Library, at 9:30 a.m. Both groups have a time of fellowship, study, service and prayer at each meeting. Their January service project will be donations of fleece for the Project Linus Blanket Making day on January 25<sup>th</sup> in the WFLC at 9:00 a.m. All women are invited to attend the monthly meetings and the blanket making activity.



## CCC Book Discussion Group

The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC Library for conversation about the book *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

## Fellowship Followers Super Bowl Party

If you'd like to come watch the football game, share delicious food and spend time with CCC friends, please let us know by signing up on the clipboard in the Narthex this Sunday. This year's gathering will be hosted at the home of Ed and Beth Bean on February 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 4:30 p.m.



## Elders Chili Cook-Off and Auction

In just 2 short weeks it will be CHILI TIME!

The annual Chili Cook-Off and Auction hosted by the CCC Elders will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Wunderlich Family Life Center. We need 5 more people who would like to enter their chili in the competition (2 gallons needed) and bakers/crafters to donate items for the auction. Donations of soda/lemonade/tea (in cans) for the youth to sell during the evening would also be appreciated. Please sign up on the back of the Connection Card in this weeks bulletin or contact Diane Hall and let us know how you would like to participate. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex this Sunday. If you signed up to bring a homemade item or gift card/basket for the auction, please give them to Diane Hall or drop them off in the church office by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeds from this year's event will be shared with  
UrbanReachSTL and Feed My People.

## God's Kids Choir

All children from K-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the choir group starting this Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the choir room. They will begin practice for the spring musical, *Unselfie*. Please contact Sandy Schleusner, Lindsay Mohr or Mark Monroe if you have any questions.

## Sunday School Teachers

We are planning the 2020 teaching schedule for Children's Sunday School. The curriculum provided makes it easy to prepare the weekly lesson. Sunday school is held each week following the Children's moment of the worship service. If you would like to teach or assist, please contact Susan McGehee or the church office.

# Vacation Bible School

July 13<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendar today!!!

## Food Donations for Hanna Woods

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

We will be filling food bags in February, but donations can be made at your convenience.

## Painting Helpers Needed



We have several parts of our buildings that are in need of fresh paint. We'd love to get that accomplished quickly by having a painting session immediately following worship on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Plans include painting a children's Sunday School classroom in Lower Packwood, the entry and portions of the walls in the gym and Rev. Thorne's office. To get this accomplished in an afternoon, we need painters – no experience required. Please contact the church office or sign up on the back of this week's Connection Card in the bulletin if you'd like to help. Lunch will be provided.

# Financial Update for Year Ended December 31, 2019

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$361,553	\$357,800	Unanticipated donations
WFLC Rental, other income	38,981	32,036	Increased rental income and unplanned earnings from Legacy giving
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$400,534</b>	<b>\$389,836</b>	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	3,489	7,350	Less spending than anticipated for youth programs
Worship/Core Ministries	14,347	20,400	Less spending than anticipated for choir, worship supplies and fellowship events
Outreach/Mission	32,722	31,457	Offering and other income exceeded budget
Property	105,281	99,065	HVAC replacement and exterior WFLC repair
Office/Administration	13,006	13,595	
Debt Service	5,360	10,946	Larger than anticipated payments of loan principal early in the year
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	198,460	207,023	Less spending than anticipated for pastor expenses, social security and nursery assistants
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$372,665</b>	<b>\$389,836</b>	
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$27,869</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

As you can see from the above information, 2019 was a strong year for CCC. In addition to generous offering receipts, fees for the use of the Wunderlich Family Life Center (WFLC) and the main church building continue to grow. The WFLC is heavily used by outside basketball groups on a year round basis.

In mid-December we learned that the 2 HVAC units that heat and cool the gym needed to be replaced. That work was completed this past week at a cost of \$32,429. With the surplus from 2019, we will be able to cover this expense without a significant need to use our Building Enhancement Fund.

And as you are all aware, we were able to fully retire the debt on the WFLC in December.

Thank you everyone for your generous support in 2019.



HVAC installation 1-7-20

# New use of Wunderlich Family Life Center in 2020

The Wunderlich Family Life Center is now available for wedding receptions and parties for groups up to 225 people. This venue has been updated with dimmable lighting for great ambiance and food and drinks can be brought in from a variety of caterers. Examples of events we can host here are receptions, awards banquets and fundraising events.

Many local venues are fully booked in 2020 on weekends, so please let your friends know about this great option, with very reasonable prices. These events held in the WFLC are managed by Limelight Events. Please call Julie Swaney (636 485 6516) or by e-mail ([julie@meetatlimelight.com](mailto:julie@meetatlimelight.com)) with any questions.

Tours are available by appointment.



A “transformed” WFLC for special events

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