

The Condensed Courier

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For more info, go to our website at www.cchpchurch.org



Discipleship/Stewardship Campaign

We have a couple of big events to finish up our discipleship/stewardship campaign, *Super Sundays with*

Seuss. This Sunday, November 13, we'll be holding a Ministry Fair down in Founders' Hall. Our ministry leaders will set up displays and will be available to talk to you about what their ministries do. We hope that this will fertilize your mind a little and help you to think about how God is calling you to ministry.

The campaign will finish up on November 20. In worship that day we will be making commitments to God for 2023 in the areas of time, talent and treasure. So, we'll ask you to think about commitments in:

TIME – how much time do you feel called to commit to God in deepening your relationship with Him in terms of praying and reading Scripture?

TALENT – how is God calling you to serve in ministry? What commitment do you feel led to make to serve in or outside of church in the coming year?

TREASURE – what is your giving going to look like in 2023? How will you support the church and other ministries around the world?

Also on November 20, we will have a Thanksgiving Leftover Celebration Dinner after worship down in Founders' Hall. We're looking forward to being together on that day!

Congregational Meeting on December 11

Our Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, December 11 this year (please note the date change). The consistory is presenting the following slate of nominees:

Deacon – Richard Budinich and Jean Greenlaw
Elder – Jocelyn Brueck and Chuck Dages

We will send out a copy of the budget about a week-and-a-half prior to the meeting

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 PM

We'll gather this autumn to give thanks with our brothers and sisters from St. Andrew's Episcopal and Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic churches. The service happens the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 22, at 7:30. It will be held at St. Andrew's (31 Lynn St., Harrington Park). We hope you'll make time to give thanks with other Christians during this season of gratitude.

Worship

In this season of giving thanks for our many blessings, the Worship Committee thanks everyone involved with the *Super Sundays with Seuss* services, which have been an uplifting and thought-provoking time of worship for adults and children. Looking ahead, Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 27. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, please prayerfully consider greeting, ushering and/or lighting the Advent candles. To volunteer, contact Sanae Tomita, 201-776-3453 or Chris Novak 201-887-0717.

Finance

Greetings from your Finance Committee. At this time of year, we are busy getting our budget ready for you – the congregation. This is such an important step in the well-being of our church. Each committee carefully reviews their budget, examining each and every expense of this current year, in order to accurately prepare for next year. Please pray for us as we gather all this information. We are currently running at a deficit of about \$35,000.00. Since we are almost at the end of this year – please bring your pledges up to date and consider an additional donation to help us close the budget gap. We will have a table at the Ministry Fair in Founders Hall on November 14. Please come visit us and see what your Finance Committee does for the Church.

Joan Hoerauf and Les Cox – Finance Committee

Men's Group on Nov. 20

Our Men's Group changed our meeting date this month – we have a lot of guys involved in the Harrington Park 5K. We will meet on November 19 at 8:30 AM in Johnson Chapel. For this month only, we need a breakfast-maker. Is there someone who would want to do that for the group? Call Steve Sayer (570-656-1412).



The Children's Choir has been busy rehearsing for this Sunday, November 13 when they will sing with the Chancel Choir. Now, we will be rehearsing for the December 18 Musicales as well as a second performance that day at the Live Nativity. The children rehearse for 15 minutes after worship. New voices are always welcome.

All Hands on Deck for the Live Nativity

We have an idea for a way to let people know about our church. As you may know, there are a great many younger families in our area, families that may wish for their children to grow up with some familiarity and devotion to Jesus. We've done a live nativity a couple of times. We have costumes and a simple Christmas presentation, so that children from the area can show up, grab a costume as an angel of shepherd, and be part of the experience. It has attracted a couple of hundred people in the past, and a great many kids, each time we've done it.

Here is our thinking. A lot of younger people are on Instagram. We thought that by: creating an Instagram account whose pictures showed the many things we do to help kids know Jesus; and by creating a QR code that takes them right to that account; and by passing out that QR code in a postcard about the nativity, and then at the nativity itself, we might be able to encourage them to follow us on Instagram and thereby create a connection with Christ through the Holy Spirit and our church.

We'll hold the nativity again on Sunday, December 18, starting at noon. We hope this can be an all-hands-on-deck event. We'll need people to do all kinds of tasks: passing out programs, preparing

refreshments (especially Christmas cookies), serving as angels and shepherds to guide the kids, and, most of all, to serve as warm-welcomers on that day. As a church, we want to put our best foot forward on December 18, and that means greeting people and serving as the face of a church that cares for them and wants to show them Jesus.

In order to make it a little easier to stay and be one of the all hands on deck, we will serve a lunch that day, right after the service. Please make plans to help as we try and reach out to the people of our area in the name of Christ.

You Can Help Your Church Do Kingdom Work Even after You're Gone Steve Sayer

An interesting challenge has started to emerge in the Christian church, as we come out of COVID. One pastor put it this way: "All the changes we thought we'd see over the next 10 years have happened in two." By that she meant that the church was forced to engage with the digital world in a way it was always going to have to, but had kind of delayed up until COVID. And she also meant that we have seen the declines of the next 10 years happen in two.

Churches have gotten smaller during COVID. People have gotten out of the habit of being part of the church. That's putting a lot of pressure on smaller churches. The churches that are most able to weather this storm are the ones with significant assets. It's never been clearer that it's important for churches to have significant financial margins to handle the future.

I trust that you love your church and want to see it continuing to do God's work well into the future. The way we can accumulate the financial margins that allow us to do that is by you remembering your church in your will. Would you think about doing that?

Although we hear about churches receiving enormous amounts of money through bequests, bequests don't have to be that large at all. They add up pretty quickly, as long as many folks include their church in their wills. Please think about ensuring your church's ability to do Kingdom work well into the future.

Next Courier Deadline: Nov. 27, going out December 1