

sanctuary in the city

Compton Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Spring - God's Celebration of the Earth

April, 2016 VOL64 • NO2

Certainly we see God's creative wonder in every season; however Spring speaks of God's renewal of life in a unique way. Christians in the Northern Hemisphere associate Easter with Spring.

As we know, the date of Easter is not a fixed date: we are always asking "When is Easter this year?" because Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the March equinox. The March equinox is the Vernal (Spring) Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, and in the Southern Hemisphere it is Autumnal (Fall) Equinox. And what is an 'equinox?' It is the time (twice a year – March and September) when the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of night

and day are nearly equal. ("Equinox (Latin) -"equal night").

We do not tend to be as connected to the earth, to the movements of day and night, to the phases of the moon, as our ancestors were. We lose touch with the very earth and galaxy of which we are a part.

The simple beauty, however, is that we celebrate resurrection as the daylight is becoming longer and as the earth is bringing forth life from what has been frozen and bare - and for all practical purposes appeared dead. With the budding and fresh green growth of Spring, the earth seems to awaken and push forth new life; and something awakens in us. We realize that we are

deeply connected to the earth; that our life and the life of the rest of creation cannot be separated.

How is the resurrection to new life for God's people, related to the life that God sustains and brings forth in all creation? How is the life of all creation a part of God's eternal being?

I believe that God created the earth and all that is in it, and it is good! God breathed life into every creature of the earth, into every human being, and it is good. God raises us up and renews life within us when we are dead inside and it is good. God gives life to our soul that does not die – and it is good! God raises us to new life – and it is good.

Be Alive in Christ – *Jacque*

Earth Stewardship Sunday
April 17th

2016

Earth Stewardship Sunday begins the week that ends with Earth Day on Friday, April 22nd. In some parts of the world, the focus is on the unity of the people of the one Earth. In the U.S. the focus is on our care and our responsibility for the earth. LET IT BE ALL OF THIS!

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One of four sanctuary prayer stations during the Good Friday evening service.

Welcome to the Compton Heights Christian Church Community!

We welcome **Matthew Creed**, who reaffirmed his baptism, and joined the congregation on March 13. This was a celebration of faith and of God's love in Matthew's life as he embraced his full identity as a son of God. Matt is a pediatric nurse, who works with families with special needs kids. We celebrate Matt's desire to make Compton Heights his church home!

We welcome the **Revs. Amy and Roger Bertschausen** who made Compton their church home on Palm Sunday, March 20. Roger came by transfer of membership from the Fox Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Appleton, Wisconsin. Roger served that congregation for 25 years. Amy came by transfer of membership from the Congregational United Church of Neenah, Wisconsin, where she served a Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center. Amy now serves as Exec. Director of Care and Counseling and Roger serves with Unitarian-Universalist Church as a consultant. We welcome Roger and Amy to Compton Heights!

Mandt™ Safety & De-Escalation Training, Saturday April 23, 9 am – 5:30 pm

A few months ago we dealt with a gentleman on a Sunday morning who was quite agitated. In response, we put additional safety measures in place. Perhaps the most important part of our comprehensive plan is **Safety and De-Escalation Training for ALL of us!** This training will give EVERYONE the skills to help de-escalate situations with persons who are agitated and to use best practices to calm encounters to avoid violence. This training applies to many situations in the many contexts of our lives! The training will be led by Rick Goolsby from Judevine Inc. Mr. Goolsby is experienced with the Mandt™ training system to avoid workplace violence. This will be an all day event. We would like to have as many to take the

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION - Due May 1

Our Mid-America Region camp information and registration materials are available both online and at the church.

We have had a great group from Compton Heights going to the Intergenerational Camp at MOVAL (about an hour from STL, at Union, MO.) This camp will be directed this year by **Brenda Booth and Doug Cripe!** Babies thru grandparents welcome!!

Fee per person \$210 (by May 1), \$230 (after May 1), fee per person with 3+ in family \$190.

Camp Scholarships are available for **all** applicants. To receive scholarship you must apply by the **May 1 deadline.**

For information on **ALL Mid-America Camps** and registration materials online, go to: www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer

Or you may pick up hard copies at church.

Church camp is transforming for children, youth, & adults!

Celebrations & Concerns

Please Pray for:

Audrey Tarde
Cathy Hutcherson
John Pitt
Royce Sykes
Sharon Clayton

Happy Birthday!

APRIL

4th Eleanor Welder
20th Leslie Latham
25th DebE Martin
26th Karen Pitt

MAY

14th Kathy Bradley
Heather Stout
15th Marty Renner Hughes
16th Bryan Richardson
Kristie Blunt Welder
27th Sarah Hughes

Church Clean Up Day Workers!

A BIG thanks to those who helped get ready for Holy Week and Easter Events. These folks raked leaves, mulched, cleaned the sanctuary - lemon oiled the pews, and cleaned the kitchen!

Darrell & Marty Hughes
Ron and Cathy Hutcherson
Madeline Haraway
Meredith Jackson
Walt Tarde
Dennis James
Dave Boger
Jacque Foster
Kathy Mead
Leslie Latham
Marsha McGuire

THANK YOU!!

training as possible. If you work with children, youth, or people with special needs, you will find additional value in this training. Please sign up on library door by Apr. 17 to allow us to provide materials and lunch for everyone!



Sunday Schedule
 9 am - Choir Prep.
 10 am - Education & Spiritual Nurture
 11 am - Worship

Every Friday
 Happy Friday Outreach
 7:00 - 8:00 am

What's

3 2nd Sun. of Easter

6 Wednesday
 Ministry Groups 7 pm

7 Thursday Prayer
 Shawl Knitting Group 7 pm

8 Happy Friday 7am

10 3rd Sun. of Easter

13 Wednesday
 WSPR - 6 - 7 pm
 Elders' Circle 7 pm

Happening

15 Happy Friday 7 am

17 4th Sun. of Easter
 Earth Stewardship Sunday

20 Wednesday
 WSPR 6 - 7 pm

22 Happy Friday 7 am
 Earth Day

23 Saturday All Church
 Safety Training 9 - 5:30

24 5th Sun. of Easter

Here

26 Tuesday
 Compassionate Listening
 6:30 - 8:30 pm

27 Wednesday
 WSPR - 6 - 7 pm
 Pastor's Cabinet 7 pm

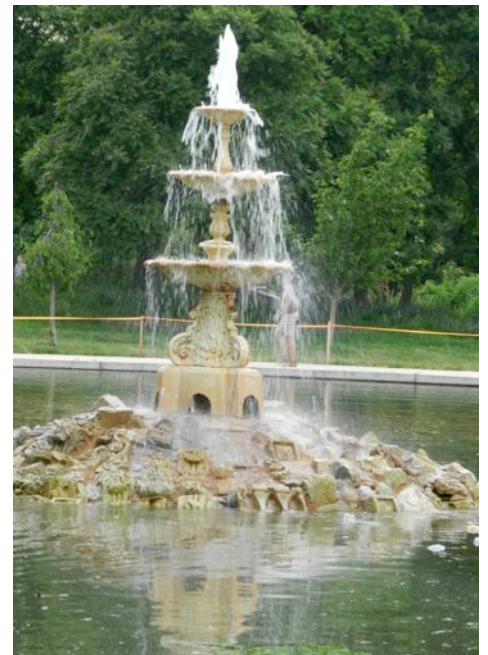
29 Happy Friday 7am
 Screening of NBA film
 "Injustice Anywhere" and
 Panel Discussion 6pm at
 Union Ave. Christian
 Church, 733 Union Blvd.

May 1 6th Sunday of
 Easter

SERVING SCHEDULE - APRIL

April Communion Bread: Heather Stout
Sanctuary Greeter: Steve Randolph

- Apr 3 Liturgist:** Bryan Richardson
Elders: Marsha McGuire (Communion)
 Kathy Mead (Stewardship)
Deacons: Kathy Bradley, Carolyn Harry
 Susan Petri, Julie Phoenix
Nursery: Madeline Haraway
Coffee Hosts: DebE Martin & Kim Litton
- Apr 10 Liturgist:** Kristie Welder
Elders: Norm Linville (Communion)
 Steve Randolph (Stewardship)
Deacons: Jennifer Phoenix, David Nielsen
 Arlene Arbogast (sub), Walt Tarde
Nursery: Marsha McGuire
Coffee Hosts: Charlsi & Thelonius Lee
- Apr 17 Liturgist:** Dave Martin
Elders: Millie Slack (Communion)
 Madeline Haraway (Stewardship)
Deacons: Joan James, Stanley Williams
 Tom Litton, Dennis James
Nursery: Brenda Booth
Coffee Hosts: Darrell and Marty Hughes
- Apr 24 Liturgist:** Cathy Hutcherson
Elders: Thelonius Lee (Communion)
 Charlsi Lee (Stewardship)
Deacons: Kim Litton, Bud Obermiller
 Heather Stout, Tina Owens
Nursery: Marty Hughes
Coffee Hosts: Madeline H., Kathy B., Tina O.



Where in St. Louis will
 you find the above
 fountain?

The answer to last
 week's 'STL Find'
 (below) is: In the
 downtown City Garden





THANKS TO ALL WHO CELEBRATED HOLY WEEK and EASTER BY SHARING YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE AND TIME!

Holy Week was a meaningful time of prayer and worship as so many Compton Heights CC folks prepared and participated. Thank you to **all** those who came and participate in Maundy Thursday worship at St. John's. (A great group gathered after worship in the warmth of Mokabe's for coffee and supper! – a warm alternative to Ted Drewes.)

Jacque and Meredith were the only ones from our congregation on the Friday Way of the Cross Walk. We can tell you it was powerful as we prayed through "Wedge" neighborhood between Chippewa and Gravois for the first time this year.

Thank you to the Elders for their ideas, and to Nancy Obermiller, Jaime Van Nostrand, and Jacque for creating the Good Friday Evening Meditation Service. Thanks to all those who came that evening. You made it a Holy space.

Thank you to all made the Holy Saturday Community meal a wonderful success. Especially Brenda Booth and Leslie Latham for their leadership and planning. To ALL who came early to set up, brought food, and stayed to clean up and get ready for Easter breakfast!

Thank you to all who brought wonderful Easter Breakfast foods, those who made the Easter Egg Hunt a fun time for the children, and those who prepared for and helped create worship together on Easter morning. Worship was *truly 'the work of the people'* as it should be!

A special thanks to David French and the Choir who have led us in worship with such wonderful music this season!

And Thank you to Marty Hughes for once again ordering beautiful Easter Lilies and Spring flowers for the chancel!

The documentary film "**Injustice Anywhere**" by Aziza Binti, has been funded by our National Benevolent Association (NBA) and features Disciples' pastors and congregations in the St. Louis area post Ferguson. The film will be used with congregations and regions across the country who are exploring the call of the church to engage the sin of racism and injustice. This debut screening and panel discussion provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the experiences and expressions of ministry that came together in this place and time. As our Compton Heights CC ministry is a part of this story, we hope you will plan to be present at the screening at 6:00 pm on Friday, April 29 at Union Avenue Christian Church.

Financial Report – March Income

Regular Income for March through March 27:	\$11,016.44
YTD regular income through March 27:	\$31,893.43
YTD general fund income includes the following:	
Regular giving (pledged and estimated)	26,138.00
Loose offering	399.34
Gifts and new givers	400.00
Interest from CCF	97.70
Rent	1,400.00
Fund Raising	95.03
Special Offerings (Easter=\$1,031)	2,325.33
Memorial and Elders Fund Gifts	0.00
Tuition for Dhanush and Girisha in India	74.84
Equal Exchange/Coffee Fellowship	367.90
Offsets to Expenses (including trash)	595.29
YTD Capital Fund Income	0.00
Total Income	\$31,893.43



Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen
Indeed!

Compton Heights Christian Church
2149 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63110

Ministry Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster
Pastor

Ms. Jaime Van Nostrand
Pastoral Intern

Ms. Leslie Latham
Moderator of Congregation

Ms. Kristie Welder
Vice Moderator

Ms. Marsha McGuire
Clerk

Ms. Judi Linville
Financial Secretary

Kathy Mead,
Darrell Hughes,
Tom Litton
Treasurers

Contact us: 314-771-5071

www.comptonheights.com

check us out on Facebook

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Pastor: jleigh55@att.net



Tree Hugging and Listening to the Earth

I have developed a relationship with this tree. It is not my first relationship with a tree; there have been many significant trees in my life. I suppose some would say I'm a 'tree hugger.' I'm really more of a tree toucher/listener. Dave Martin introduced me to one in the Botanical Garden that I love to visit. And this one has reached right into my heart. I first saw this picture of her when Jaime's fiancée Laura posted it. I was brought to tears and knew that I had to find her. Fortunately she is not far away; just on the edge of Tower Grove Park across from St. John's Church.

In her presence, I sense both strength and pain; as she has reached with such tenacity for life.

With long gnarled roots reaching across and through concrete obstacles, she has remained grounded, found nourishment, insisted on life.

She is not alone. She has sisters along the same walk, who have struggled along side her; only a few feet away and yet unable to touch. I can only imagine how they have encouraged each other, shared their pain, celebrated their victories, and whispered their longings. They stand together through the barrenness of winter, and they delight in the budding of spring. They are strong. They are alive. May I learn from them. - *Jacque*