

Update of Reopening Task Force

Given the recent rise in COVID positive cases, hospitalizations, and large positivity rate, the Speedway Christian Church reopening task force has decided that continuing with our live-streamed and recorded 10:15am service is the best path at this time.

I have said this many times to this congregation . . . to say these are surreal times in extreme circumstances would be a MAJOR understatement. However, what we can hope for from this experience is that we will find something good to come out of it.

I can assure you that this decision was not one that was reached lightly or without contentious moments. Moments, again, where I almost did not feel that God was with us or that I was even acting as a Christian should.

But then, I ran across two thoughts.

- ♦ One, because when Love compels you to action, not everyone will always agree.
- ♦ Two, in ministry and in life, even when things seem to be going wrong they are going right for those who love the Lord.

Our committee will meet again on February 15 with the intent to provide a plan to have our church open by Easter. We all need to understand that conditions are always ever changing, but the goal is to return to safe worship by Easter.

I'll be addressing the congregation on Sunday, January 24 with more details and plans.

I'll end with a scripture and word of thanks.

The scripture is Psalm 50:15 - And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Thanks goes out to the outstanding selfless servants on this task force, who are serving Speedway Christian Church humbly and in love, to all SCC members that allow me to serve the church, and to Rev. Deges and Rev. Griffin as they continue to carry out the ministry of SCC in services, hospitals, funerals, and any place SCC is called. ~Chuck Bennett

Update on the Work of the Search Committee for Senior Minister

The Search Committee is currently engaged in producing a packet of materials which provides a visual and written picture of our church. It will include a profile of the congregation, of the church as it is currently, what we see as our hopes and dreams for the future, and what we see as our challenges. This will be submitted to the region to help them identify senior minister candidates who might be a good fit for us. The packet will then be sent to potential candidates as a way of introducing them to our church and congregation.

The Committee has compiled a rough draft outlining the results of the survey we all completed recently. We have circulated it to members of small groups for their feedback. If you have not received a copy, and would like to, please contact Roy or Becky Shoemaker at Rebecca.shoemaker@gmail.com, or by phone at 317-658-4321 or 317-658-0211, and we will be glad to send you a copy. We are interested in having your feedback about the findings, which will help us in compiling the packet described above

~ Roy & Beck Shoemaker
Search Committee Chairs

Disciples of Christ Identity, Mission and Vision Statements

Our Identity

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.— Micah 6:8

Our Mission

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8

Please keep in Prayer

Harriette Aichele

Don Counts

Jim Hollis

Ed Hawkins

Teri Planalp

Shirley Casady

Greg Littrell (Deanna Beaver's brother)

Jeff Williams (Bil & Linda Carter's grandson)

Don Westrick

Don Bosma

Martha Bosma

Shirley Westrick

Sarah Clark (Anita Clark's granddaughter)



Thank you to all those who called, sent cards and shared kind and loving words with us during the loss of Don's mother.

Don & Wilma Heller and Family



World Outreach wants to thank everyone for their wonderful participation in the toy drive in December. We were able to present foster care children with over 150 toys for Christmas. The clothing drive for Central Christian Church was also a great success! Our church has shown great compassion for the homeless of our city, who will receive these clothes. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank You!

Teresa Gorrell, Outreach Chair

***Thank you for your
continued support to
The Storehouse
Food Pantry!***



Interim Iterations

It is no accident that the first name given to those who followed Jesus was that they were followers of 'the way' or 'the road.' When they found Jesus they found their way and it became for them their hope. It is what moved them forward. Don Sarton, my colleague and friend for many years would say, it is what moved them 'onward.'

I love that great story about the Mission Board Executive who was talking to the great Livingstone, of Stanley and Livingstone greatness, who were missionaries to the continent of Africa. The Executive said, "Dr. Livingstone, is there a good road to where you are? If so, we have a couple of men who would like to come and help you."

David Livingstone replied: "If they need a good road, don't send them. I need men who can come, road or no road."

I often think that our women would not have thought twice as to whether there was a road or not. They would just go. And our Disciples Women did just go when the American Christian Missionary Society created the Christian Woman's Board of Missions on October 21, 1874.

If we are to move forward as the church it is imperative that we let our creative juices flow forward and onward. We must stop looking through the rear view mirror of what has been and start looking through the front windshield of what is yet to be.

Kierkegaard would challenge us to take a 'leap of faith' into the future. Cicero would call us to gaze to that 'somewhere beyond the stars.' It is our faith that calls us to walk forward into uncertainties of all kinds with the surety that God is with us always, even to the end [Matthew 28:19-20].

We know what kind of church we have been over the past years. We also know what kind of church we are today. The question for us during this transitional time is: What kind of church is God calling us to become? We can only discover this as we move forward into God's future.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide Interim leadership to you during this period of transition in your congregation's life. If no one has told you lately, let me tell you now, what a great church and people you are. I will always hold you near and dear to my heart. Now, let's continue to be about moving forward into Speedway's future!

Forwardly yours,

Ron

Renovation Loan Balance Update

Nearly 20 years ago, the congregation of Speedway Christian Church made a commitment to renovate and transform our church building. The renovation created the Hall of Light, moved the Bethany Room and church offices, added the elevator by the back door, and completed several other building improvements and system upgrades. It created a ground-level entrance from the parking lot with double doors and automatic openers that make it so much easier for people of all ages and abilities to enter the church from the parking lot. We can't imagine being without those improvements.

The renovation cost just over \$2 million. Thanks to designated donations from members and friends, we have been paying down our renovation debt. In November of 2019 we shared with the congregation that the remaining amount due was then \$200,000 and predicted fully paying off the loan by January 2023 – six months before the July 2023 maturity date.

Today the balance is down to \$123,500, and we hope to retire the loan in 2022.

Despite the pandemic, we managed to pay down the principal balance by \$55,700 in 2020. How are we able to make this progress? Thanks to the generosity of our church members, we are able to pay an additional \$1,000 every month and will continue to do so.

An additional \$5,000 will be applied to the principal in January, and our projected principal by the end of 2021 will be only \$47,000.

We are heading down the back stretch of paying off our loan! Thank you for supporting Speedway Christian Church.

Michi Yochum
Renovation Fund Manager

2021

Week of Compassion Special Offering February 21-28, 2021

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and works with partners throughout the world to alleviate suffering.

In a year that has seen significant change and experienced much suffering such as the record-breaking fires on the west coast of the U.S., Week of Compassion has been there. With an active hurricane season that brought destruction to the Gulf Coast, Week of Compassion has been there. In the aftermath of that massive explosion in Beirut that displaced thousands of individuals, Week of Compassion has been there.



Because of your faithfulness in 2020, during a global pandemic, Week of Compassion has provided nearly \$3 million for responses all over the world. The reality is that 2021 will bring many of the same challenges.

But thanks your support, Week of Compassion will work to continue to strengthen our church's presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary.

On Sundays February 21 and 28, you can make a difference in the lives of those experiencing hardship by designating a special gift to Speedway Christian Church, noting in the memo line of your gift: For Week of Compassion.

Did you know.... That our church expenses continue even when we do not have "in person" worship?

Following are a few examples of our monthly on going church expenses:

Electricity: \$2,000 (12 month avg)
Heating/Gas: \$ 440 (12 month avg)
Janitorial: \$ 1,500

Stewardship/Finance 2020 Approved Budget: \$501,211

2020 YTD Funds Received:	\$388,948
2020 YTD Expenses:	\$424,357
2020 YTD <u>Shortage</u>	\$ 35,409

December 2020

December 2020 Funds Received ...	\$ 34,396
December 2020 Expenses	\$ 41,569
December 2020 <u>Shortage</u>	\$ 7,173

Speedway Christian Church
5110 West 14th Street
Speedway, Indiana 46224

Until further notice, there will be no live worship services held at Speedway Christian Church. The 10:15am worship service will be live-streamed.

Instructions for Sunday Worship Live Stream

To access the live stream of the Sunday 10:15am worship service, go to SCC's website (www.speedwaychristian.org), and there will be a button to take you to SCC's YouTube channel. The first video listed will be the live stream. There will be a red box beside it that states "Live Now".

Lunch & Learn

Please join Ron or Katie each Monday at noon as they lead a study of the scripture that will be the focus of the sermons for the upcoming Sunday. The study is by Zoom. If you have interest in participating, let the church office know.



**Next Official Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

Have you considered
Speedway Christian
Church in your will?



May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

**During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.**

Amen.