

Search Committee Update

In the interest of keeping the congregation informed of the Search Committee's progress in its search for a permanent senior minister, we offer the following update.

The committee has completed the Congregational Profile based on the results of the survey and other information, and have submitted it to the Disciples of Christ Regional office. Regional ministers Rick Spleth and Carolyn Casey Reed will review this information and use it as an aid in selecting ministerial candidates whose papers will be submitted to our search committee for consideration. We expect to start receiving these files shortly.

The committee will continue to keep the congregation posted on its progress. At the same time, we encourage all of you to contact us with your questions, concerns and other feedback.

Sincerely,
Roy and Becky Shoemaker



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.

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.



Thank you Opportunity Day Preschool

The church learned a few weeks ago about a major plumbing problem that involved replacing sewer tiles and cleaning out a main building drain some 15 feet below the surface of our property. The total cost of remedying this problem was estimated to be \$5,497.50.

Speedway Church member, Tom Smith, and the Board of Directors of Opportunity Day Preschool generously offered to cover the entire cost of the repairs. We extend our thanksgiving for the partnership we have with the Opportunity Day Preschool to provide the early child development needs of our Speedway community.

Church and community working together is what this is all about. We also recognize Gunner Condre, Property Chair, Wilma Heller, Office Manager, and Gordon Plumbing for providing oversight over this project.

As you are aware, our church facility is aging. We can expect that there will be additional property improvements that we will need to address in the future. As we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and friends, it is heartwarming to know that our neighbors and friends are here to help us continue our vital ministry to the community.

I like to think that the church is never an island unto itself, but an oasis in the community where it is planted. May the church always find ways to serve the needs of its community by building strong and lasting relationships.

Thank you Opportunity Day Preschool for reaching out to Speedway Christian in our time of need. We are truly thankful for our relationship that has spanned the decades and look forward to a promising future together.

~ Rev. Ron Degges



Please keep in Prayer

Diana Dickey Harriette Aichele
Teresa Gorrell Jim Hollis

Ed Hawkins
Teri Planalp
Shirley Casady
Don Westrick
Don Bosma
Martha Bosma
Shirley Westrick

Sarah Clark (Anita Clark's granddaughter)
Greg Littrell (Deanna Beaver's brother)
Jeff Williams (Bil & Linda Carter's grandson)

Our Sympathy

To the family of **Robert "Rog" Rhoades**, who passed away on January 26, 2021.

To Mary Houldson and family, upon the death of **Larry Houldson**, who passed away on January 28, 2021.



To Dottie Counts and family, upon the passing of **Don Counts**, who passed away on January 28, 2021.

To Nona Hodder and family, upon the death of **Skip Hodder**, who passed away on February 1, 2021 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and messages during my recovery. It will take awhile yet, but I will get there. You are all very special people.

~Teresa Gorrell



March Happy Birthday

Dona Smith March 6

(Dona will be 91 years young!)



We wish Happy Birthday to
Betty Scott.
Betty will celebrate her 80th
birthday on February 15.

Interim Iterations

Since you are in the process of discerning who your next Senior Minister will be, I thought it appropriate to share with you some of my thoughts on ministry. There is no greater privilege than to serve as a minister. With great privilege comes even greater responsibility.

To care for the flock within our congregations as well as that flock who has yet to embrace the church's mission demands that we bring our best to the task of ministry. If at any time in history it was needed, the need for an educated, literate, and professional ministry is now.

I have always believed that education and ministry are two sides of the same coin. T. H. White in *The Once and Future King*, probably said it best when he wrote about learning in this way:

"The best thing . . . is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, can never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting."

Ministry is about such learning and sharing that learning with others. The purpose of ministry is to strengthen the whole church so that the world may believe and come into a relationship with the living Christ. Ministry is not just for the sake of the church. Ministry is for the sake of the world and all who dwell in it.

Our ministers must help us encounter new ideas and take them seriously, develop the capacity to think critically and interdependently, discover deep interests and consuming passions, and define the type of church we want to be and the type of mission that will help get us there. Such ministers will be leaders. It has been my experience that the church is crying out for leadership.

I thank God everyday for the ministry to which I have been called, for the privilege to serve, and for the responsibilities and demands of the profession. I know that all who currently serve in ministerial positions; those looking for a ministerial position where they can serve; and, those who hope to serve as a minister one day (ministers-in waiting) will aspire to bring their best in service to the church. Anything less than the best prolongs the coming of God's kingdom. The minister's life and prayer must be as the book of Revelation ends: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Minister-ly yours,

Ron

KEEPING YOU Informed

Summary of SCC February Board Meeting

- ◆ A subcommittee will expand on the idea of a theme for church ministries focused on the book of Acts. A-Assisting C-Christ T-Together
- ◆ Thanks to a wonderful gift to the church, the renovation loan balance of \$115,664 (as of January 15) will be reduced by \$40,000.
- ◆ We thank our blessed partners at Opportunity Day for covering our costly plumbing and drainage system repairs.
- ◆ The sprinkler system needs additional repairs and updates, with an estimated cost of \$4,630.
- ◆ The Safe Worship Task Force will meet February 15 to consider when it is safe to resume in-person worship. Details will be shared after their meeting.
- ◆ The Search Committee used congregation survey results to compile an information packet for people who are searching for an opportunity to serve.
- ◆ Allen Percy will train people to join the Media Ministry.
- ◆ The pledge receipts are below the monthly budget. January expenses were \$33,462 and receipts were \$32,251, a shortfall of \$1,211.
- ◆ Thanks to memorial funds, we are able to move forward with plans to develop the green space to the west of the church. Additional details will be shared soon.
- ◆ We are exploring appropriate ways to acknowledge the hard work, commitment, and love so many people selflessly give to our church and for God.
- ◆ We welcome ideas from the congregation for outreach projects to support our community.
- ◆ We are making plans for Summer Church Camp.
- ◆ A committee will meet Feb. 11 to discuss updating the church website.
- ◆ A task force will develop recommendations for video message boards and present options at a future board meeting.
- ◆ We want our ministries to make plans for post-pandemic programs, so we are ready to ACT on them when it is once again safe to do so, including guest speakers on faith and stewardship.

If anyone would like to join a ministry (committee) of the church, there is a spot for you. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a board member.

Our youth are meeting in person again and everyone is invited on Sunday evenings, 5:45-7:30 PM. Please bring your friends and don't forget to eat before you come as we are not having dinner together right now (just to be as safe as possible).

Our children continue to meet for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 AM. If you would like to join us, please email Katie at kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org.

Karen Edmiston continues as our Worship and Wonder storyteller! You can find all of our videos, including this week's on our YouTube page, just search "Speedway Christian Church."

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is next week! On Wednesday, you are invited to come to church for a drive through imposition of ashes (where Ron and I make a cross on your forehead with ashes). This is a day in which we are all invited to consider our own mortality and our relationship with God. In addition, all adults, youth, and children will receive a packet of Lenten materials specific to their age group. Please stop by 11:30 am - 1:00pm or 5:30 - 7:00pm. If you cannot make it those times, just give the church office a call and we will set up another time. We can't wait to see you there!

We encourage you to stop by with your kids so they can participate as well, even though the topic of this day is rather somber. Participation in this way helps kids to feel a sense of belonging as part of the larger family of God. In doing so, we are leading by example. Also, sensory experiences such as this one help kids to connect this moment to their relationship with God.

Of course, we will be observing all social distancing guidelines. Again, **if you are unable to stop by during the planned times, please call the church office and we will set something up.** We hope to see you and your family next Wednesday! If you have any questions, please email Katie at kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org.



Speedway Christian Church Stewardship/Finance

January 2021

January 2021 Funds Received	\$ 32,251
January 2021 Expenses	\$ 33,462
January 2021 <u>Shortage</u>	\$ 1,211

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, March 9, 2021**

Have you considered
Speedway Christian
Church in your will?



Philip Gulley our Guest (zoom) On Wednesday, February 24 "Sunday" School Meeting

Please join us, on Wednesday, February 24 *via zoom*, Rev. Philip Gulley, Quaker minister and author, will join the "Sunday " School on Wednesday Evening discussion group **at 6:30pm**. The group has been discussing his book, "If Grace Is True," since the beginning of the year. If you would like to join in, you are welcome to do so; you don't have to read the book to benefit from the discussion! This book is based on Gulley's belief that God will save every person. Email Marilyn Shank at mshank@shankpr.com if you want to be on the email distribution list. Following is the Zoom link.

- ◆ Meeting [Zoom Link](#); Phone: 312.626.6799
- ◆ Meeting ID: 848 6419 0231
- ◆ Passcode: 790131

The church had invited Rev. Gulley, who has authored several humor books about growing up in a small Indiana town, to be a guest speaker for a special event in April 2020. That event was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. We hope to reschedule when it is safe to do so.

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

