

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Pastor's Letter

Friends,

By the time you receive this I will have served as your pastor for almost 2 years. It has been a wonderful time of sharing, loving, and serving each other during our time together. I am truly blessed to serve as your pastor.

My last letter talked about love and how we are to love each other as Jesus loved us. This summer, we can demonstrate our love during the July mission trip to Kentucky and the 11th annual Love Your Neighbor Day in September. In October many of us will participate in the CROP Walk that raises money to continue to feed families. For over 30 years we have sponsored a food pantry from our doors weekly, feeding families in our own community and surrounding communities. God has truly blessed us through our willingness to serve our neighbors and bring the good news of Jesus to our community.

In worship, we're just finishing up a study on Galatians and will be spending the next few months reviewing the prison letters of Paul which include Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians. Paul provides timely counsel to the early church regarding how we serve each other, and handle conflict. Much of that is applicable still today.

After that, I thought it might be fun before the next season of advent begins to spend some time preaching on your favorite verses. ***So please e-mail me with your favorite Bible verse and I will spend a Sunday preaching on it!*** That sounds like fun to me and I'm sure it will be informational, inspirational, and meaningful to all of us.

The Jesus in me loves the Jesus in you. You're so easy to love. I've been saying that for the last few weeks. Matthew 28 challenges us to make disciples of all people and to preach the gospel in all the world. What better place to start than in our own community of Villa Park? So, what is your favorite Bible verse, and if you care to share with me, why?

Enjoy your summer, my friends. May God continue to bless each of you as we serve each other and our fellow man.

Pastor Dave

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible study meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September through May.
All ages are invited to gather together for an opening activity and to hear the Bible story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook Live

Looking Ahead....

- Pastor Dave is on vacation through Friday, July 11. (Please contact Betty Prorak with pastoral needs through Sunday, July 6. From the 7th through the 11th, contact Dan or Doris Carter.)
- The service for the internment of Jane Reid's ashes in the chapel at Chapel Hill Gardens that was scheduled for Sunday, July 13 has to be rescheduled. It will take place sometime in August. (Email announcements will have the updated information.)
- Wednesday, July 16, 7:00pm – Stewardship Council meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, July 27, 10:30am – Worship service of music provided by Mickey O'Brien and friends.
- Sunday, October 5, 1:00pm – CROP Walk, beginning at First Church of Lombard.
- Monday, October 13, 11:00am – News deadline for the October edition of the Foresight.

Mission Trip to Kentucky with First Church of Lombard

Pastor Dave and his wife Christi, Minni Philip and Dan and Doris Carter are joining members of the First Church of Lombard for a Mission Trip to Pike County, Kentucky the week of July 20 through 26 to help with flood recovery work. If you would like to support them financially, you can make an offering to the Christian Church of Villa Park noting that it is for the mission trip.

11th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day will be held on September 20, 2025 – Volunteers Are Needed!



The Christian Church of Villa Park and other area churches and community members will be working together again this year to hold the 11th annual Love Your Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 20, 2025 (rain date September 27, 2025). This is an important ministry of CCVP which only continues with the support from our members, family and friends through volunteering. On Love Your Neighbor Day 2024, 150 volunteers came together to help a total of 34 homeowners in need of assistance in Lombard and Villa Park in doing yard work and repairs to the exterior of their homes. We hope to be able to help just as many people this year.

We know that God calls us to love our neighbors. LYND is an opportunity to put our love into action and show God's love by showing up at a neighbor's home and providing much needed assistance. Most of our applicants have been unable to keep up with projects around their home due to physical limitations (age or health problems) or financial limitations.

You can help these neighbors in need of assistance by filling out a volunteer sign-up sheet and agreeing to volunteer on September 20, 2025 (rain date September 27, 2025). You can return the sign-up sheet to Doris Carter or leave it in the church office. While some of the work done includes repairs to the exterior of the homes, most of the work done is yard work which doesn't require any specific construction skills. Repairs done last year included painting, replacing windows, rebuilding rotten decks and stairs to make them safe and usable, replacing rotten soffit and fascia, plumbing work, replacing screens, and washing windows.

Our homeowners expressed their gratitude for the blessing of having volunteers to help them out with jobs they were unable to do themselves. The volunteers came away with a great deal of satisfaction from having helped their neighbor.

If you don't feel like you have the ability to do the physical work at a neighbor's home, Ruth Martin is in need of volunteers who will help with the food – setting up coffee and breakfast treats at the morning gathering and/or delivering lunches to the teams on the job site.

It would be very helpful to the LYND Planning Team to receive your volunteer commitments as soon as possible so that they can let some of our applicants know that there will be enough volunteers so that their applications can be accepted. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available at church, on the homepage of the church's website, or you can email Doris Carter (dcarter340@aol.com) and she will send you one. Contact Doris if you have any questions. Volunteers do not need to be a member of CCVP or any other area church so we courage you to invite your family and friends to join you.

Disciples Food Pantry

Jan-Mar Stats:
562 Households served
1,994 People served

April Stats:
181 Households served
610 People served

May Stats:
report not available

The Pantry is open every Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.
Clients enter from Villa Avenue and receive food by the parking lot door.

June 30, 2025 Financial Summary

	April	May	June	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$9,302.84	\$6,468.46	\$8,046.13	\$45,947.50
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,669.73	\$8,849.62	\$8,384.18	\$47,310.19

Thank you for your faithful giving!

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- Dave and Christi Holston are enjoying a “staycation,” though it includes travelling to two out-of-town Celebrations of Life.
- Dan Carter hand has healed from the infection and the surgery to treat that infection.
- It was a joy to have Pastor Ruth Sutter join us as guest preacher on June 29. (She preaches again on July 6).
- Christi Holston’s cataract surgeries went very well.
- Sharon Philip started a new job on Monday, June 23 at Motorola in Elgin. No need to move to Florida!
- Chuck Pucci’s foot has healed.
- Jimmy Thurman's daughter Charlotte had her foot surgery on Friday, June 13. She is recovering at home and now has the help of a knee scooter that Minni Philip used when she was recovering from her foot surgery.
- Jimmy’s father-in-law Allen Johnson is recovering from surgery to remove a spot on one of his lungs.
- John Martin is recovering well from his neck surgery.
- The meeting of CCVP members on Saturday, June 21 went very well. If you were not able to attend and would like to know of the discussion that took place, please contact a member of the Council: Doris Carter, Joan Fuller, John Martin, or Betty Prorak.
- Friends and family joined in the Celebration of Life service for Jane Reid on June 14.
- Ken Newton continues to hang in there. Send him a letter/note/card at Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120.
- Mickey O’Brien (the church’s pianist) graduated from Elmhurst University on May 24. He has a full-time job that he does from home.
- In May the Holston’s went shopping for shirts for a Pantry client so he could interview for jobs. He got a job right away!
- Late in April, Ruth Martin had surgery to remove a kidney stone that she didn’t know she had until tests for something else revealed it. Two days after the surgery she flew to a wedding in Pennsylvania!
- Thank you to all who participated in the Good Friday Prayer Vigil: Pastor Dave, Betty Prorak, John Martin, Ruth Martin, Joan Fuller, Jayne Hochstetler, Dan Carter, Chuck Bohl, Tina Amodeo, the late Jane Reid, Chuck Pucci, Raja Philip, Christi Holston, and Heidi.
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!

Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!)
- Abby Kumar, who completed training in New Jersey, but decided to return to India because she did not feel safe looking for a job in the U.S.
- the safety of many immigrants, including the church's neighbors.
- Roen Evans, grandson of Joan Fuller's best friend, who is waiting for surgery to repair a hole in his heart.
- Pat Manahan (Betty Prorak's friend) whose knee surgery went well, but who is now having heart issues.
- Pastor Dave's sister Jeannie who has cancer and is in hospice.
- Pastor Dave's sister Cindee Gregorek; the Celebration of Life service for her partner of 30 years Scott Niemier will be held in Indiana on July 4. Also pray for Cindee's health.
- Pastor Dave's brother Bruce who suffered his eighth heart attack in early June.
- Maria, Heidi's neighbor, who has cancer.
- families and friends who mourn the passing of Jane Reid, George Cradic (Doris Carter's cousin), Frankie Zuniga (Tina Amodeo's brother), Judy "the bread lady" from the Pantry, Jerry Robbins, and Melanchthon Philip.
- Lucy Carter and Carol Carter, Dan and Doris Carter's sisters-in-law
- Tina Amodeo's friends Sweety in India; Stacie and her brother in Kenya, Kilimbey and Sayuni Laiza and their sons in Tanzania; Justus Paul in Nigeria for his finances and spiritual growth; Harrison who is struggling financially with building a church in Nigeria; Melissa who recovered from her shoulder surgery, but now has heart problems, and her alcoholic husband Paul; Amanda who is looking for a better job, and Christine who is struggling financially and spiritually and her drug-addicted son.
- Tina's neighbor Dan who is having problems with his transplanted kidney.
- Tina's neighbor Irma who is struggling with her husband who is an alcoholic.
- The healing/well-being of:
 - Amy Crouch
 - John Martin
 - Ruth Martin
 - Michele Grayson
 - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff
 - Minni Philip
 - Tina Amodeo
 - Tina's mother (also named Tina) – throat and eye
 - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
 - Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120)
 - Tina's father Sam
 - Carol Robbins
 - Carl Kagebein
 - Pantry clients, especially Tom
 - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria, who is in long-term nursing care
 - Heidi and family

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed on July 28 to be delivered on August 3. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like. (An order will not be placed in September/October as Betty will be in Australia.) The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on August 31. There are many different gift cards available, each giving the church a portion of your purchase price. If this will be your first order from <https://www.raiseright.com/>, contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.

A Lesson of Love

(06/19/25)

It was, maybe, three months ago when I began to "hear" this thought. I knew the feeling. It seemed to get stronger and louder.

One morning, with barely a whisper, I shared a piece of the thought, but I stayed silent thereafter. (I lacked courage to say more.)

I kept thinking that I should say something to the one that shows how to lead or to the other that guides life through the Word, but I lacked belief (that it really was the Holy Spirit).

Then I told myself to send a letter to the one (that used to guide here) and an email to the other, but I lacked hope (that God really wanted me to do this).

With the letter, I thought that I'd send it next week then the next week and so on. With the email, I decided to just call. Then I changed my mind because I wanted to show my respect and ask in person. And, then, I realized that I could just ask her on the 21st, but time ran out for that friend, but especially for me (in the opportunity to obey the Holy Spirit). Now, I lack confidence in saying anything to anyone. (I failed.)

Day after week, the Holy Spirit kept "bugging" me to speak up and ask. To just ask. Help God to preserve the legacy of CCVP. But I never did find my voice. (I, apparently, lacked trust.)

Well, I may have failed by staying silent, but God did not fail in His faithfulness; in His love for His children.

Despite the back and forth in going to the friend's wake, I decided to obey the Holy Spirit, this time, by not cancelling my bus reservation, on the third attempt, and to go to the wake.

Moments after I walked into the wake area, I was in shock at seeing all these (shiny) writings laid before me on tables. The sunlight was shining "perfectly" on those writings!

(These were the writings of our dear respected friend that has gone Home to be with our Lord and Savior; our God.)

It was weird. I was drawn to go see the writings up close, but I was unsure if it was okay for me to go look. But then I figured it was kind-of like how families put up pictures of their loved one at wakes. It must be okay to go look at the writings.

So, I went to the first essay and looked. I could only read the first page. I didn't think I could touch the essay pages. Then a friend came up and was going to take pictures of the pages. I was so excited about being allowed to do that! (I began to do the same.) As I was still looking, there was this one that completely caught my...something.

I began to read the essay and, as I read her words, I heard her voice. Her love for Jesus was alive and well! I could not stop reading! It was like I was mesmerized.

I realized that, before me, was her testimony at one point while with CCVP. The legacy of the Christian Church of Villa Park was "born".

Thank you, my Lord, my God for using my disobedience and turning it into a blessing for your glory!!!

Now, I pray, asking, for your help, Lord Jesus, in having the courage, the belief, the hope, the confidence, the trust AND the love to share this with your Church. (Love I refuse to lack!)

In Jesus' loved and respected name. Amen.

Tina Marie Amodeo/Tender Sender

September and October Celebrations on the back of this page

September and October Celebrations

(there are none that we know of in August)

September 3 Doris Carter
13 Raja Philip

October 11 Haley Felix
21 Ed Slinkman



October 28 Sofia Felix
29 Melina Felix
November 2 John Martin
11 Ken Newton
15 Steve Prorak
24 Tina Amodeo



October 17 Sue & Ray Severino
November 19 Heidi & Jose Felix