

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, March 9, 2021



You know that feeling when you know a big change is right around the corner? You're kind of excited, really anxious. You can practically taste it, but the details of how it will actually be, what it will mean for you and how you live your life, are all a little hazy. You're full of dreams, but none of them feel quite real. That's what this point in time feels like to me. Like Moses and the Israelites might have felt standing at the edge of the wilderness looking into the promised land. Wonderful, terrifying possibility.

We have been traveling through the wilderness for so long, as individuals, as a congregation, as a society. In the midst of this pandemic:

- Fractures in our communities have become glaringly obvious. Injustices have been laid bare. The effects of not knowing our neighbors have been magnified.
- As a congregation, we have not gathered together as a full, in-person community for a year. We miss each other. During that time, we have also agreed to sell our building and begun the plans for transitioning to becoming space-sharers in this place that has so long been our own.
- As individuals, we have grappled with the changes, large and small, in our lives. We have had health and financial issues. We have lost loved ones and begun new endeavors.

Now, here we are, on the edge of something big...

- Vaccines are becoming more widely available in our communities. We have hope of health and the returning ability to gather together.
- Our congregation is selling our property and we are filled with hope at the possibilities new space and financial flexibility lay before us.
- In our lives we are living into new opportunities that will bring new and transformed life. We are learning and growing.

But we are still in the wilderness. As we look forward in hope, we also recognize the suffering we have been through and the pain, anxiety, and confusion that remain with us.

- We have lost loved ones. We have lost jobs and stability. We have lost connections. Our grief is real and will continue.
- We will no longer own this property that has been ours for so long. We will grieve for the way things must change.
- Injustices have been laid bare in our communities, but they haven't been fixed. Inequality in our country has become greater than ever with no clear way to change it. Many are receiving vaccines, but others are still dying.

We stand on the edge of the promised land, dwelling still in the wilderness.

Yet, we remember, the promised land is hope, not perfection. Moses and all the Israelites who came out of Egypt will never enter it. They have seen the dream and possibilities. They shared their hope with their children, but they won't experience the fullness of the promise. Even once the Israelites enter the promised land, all is not perfect because humans are not perfect. Injustice and difficulty remain.

Hope is before us, but it will not change everything. We will still struggle. But as God was with the Israelites through the wilderness and into the dream of the promised land, God is with us as we follow the way.

Laura

Spring Forward!

Yes, it's that time again. We lose an hour this coming weekend as Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00am on March 14. If you want to be on time for things like worship on Sunday, set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Worship

Worship will continue on Facebook Live each Sunday at 10am. You are welcome in the sanctuary at that time if you have read the guidelines posted on the church's website and are comfortable in coming.

A video of each worship service is also available on the church's website on the worship page.

Join Us for Sunday School!



We meet by Zoom at 11:30am for an all-ages Sunday school. We hope you will join us each Sunday as we hear stories, talk about them and our lives, and do a few fun crafts as well. The Zoom link is in the weekly email announcements or you may email one of us and we will send it to you. There will be no class on Easter.

If you would like to receive materials for the classes, please let one of us know. But you can attend with or without those materials.

Laura Reed, Ruth Martin, Betty Prorak

No More Paper Recycling Bin

For some time, Disciples Food Pantry has not been receiving any funds for the paper collected in the bin in the church parking lot because paper recycling is no longer profitable. With the upcoming sale of our property, we decided to have the bin removed. So, if you have paper to be recycled, you will have to find somewhere else to take it. The remaining recycling bin is filled each week with cardboard boxes from the Pantry; there is no room for paper drop offs.

Tuesday and Thursday Gatherings

On Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 7:30pm you can join others from CCVP online or by phone through Zoom meetings to chat and/or pray. Call 1-312-626-6799. On Tuesdays, meeting ID 212 368 731 with password 437319. On Thursdays, meeting ID 347 464 975 with password 186082. Zoom computer links are in the weekly email announcements.



- Palm Sunday, March 28 – Worship at 10:00am in person and on Facebook Live
- Maundy Thursday, April 1 – Worship at 7:00pm on Zoom only
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil, April 2 – 6:00am to 8:00pm
- Easter, April 4 – Worship at 10:00am in person and on Facebook Live

Maundy Thursday

We will gather on Zoom for a service of communion, scripture, and candlelight at 7:00pm April 1. We will walk with Jesus through his final hours. While we do not normally worship on Zoom, we will this evening so that we can see one another's faces as we journey together toward the cross.

Prayer Vigil

Each year we participate, as a congregation, in a prayer vigil. Prayer is a communal activity connecting us to God, one another, and the world. You are invited to sign up for one or more half-hour time slots. You can pray wherever you find yourself. A list of prayer requests will be provided to assist your times of prayer. Please sign up via this link or contact Betty Prorak: [Good Friday Prayer Vigil](#).



Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a special offering for Week of Compassion. While many congregations chose to collect their offering during this designated week of February 21-28, the offering truly supports the work of this ministry throughout the whole year!

Funds received through the offering allow the Church to respond to disaster when it occurs, enabling Week of Compassion to immediately provide grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, water and food.

You may send a check at any time to the church designated to Week of Compassion or you can donate at: <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html>

The online donation form allows you to list the Christian

Virtual Diaper Drive

As the time of COVID lingers, our local families' struggles increase. First Things First, the baby needs arm of Outreach House, currently serves 60% more families than it did just a year ago. You can help our service to families by donating much needed baby items from the list at this link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/500075SJD1T0?ref=wl_share

When you choose a shipping address, "Christian Church VP/OH's Gift Registry Address" should appear in your list of other addresses.

Thank you!

Becky Kirsh, Outreach House
(Housed at First Church of Lombard)

Disciples Food Pantry

February Stats:

126 Households served

479 People served

The Pantry is open every

Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.

Clients enter from Villa Avenue and receive food by the parking lot door

February 28, 2021 Financial Summary

	February	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$7,842.45	\$24,084.45
Budgeted expenses:	\$14,427.37	\$24,054.24

Thank you for your faithful giving!

If you are able, please continue to give to the work of the church by mailing a check to the church or by giving online at <https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/4498>

Questions? Contact Betty Prorak at 847-977-0797 or BLProrak@yahoo.com

From Jane Reid

On February 1, I had an accident with my car; I was not hurt nor was the other person. But, my car was, and it was totaled. So, I am without transportation. I decided not to buy another car, as I think I am not as responsible a driver anymore as I should be. Am looking into help from the county, and I can always count on Randy. I was told there is a doctor who will come to your home, so you aren't inconvenienced when needing medical help. This is a whole new experience for me. I have a neighbor who goes to the library all of the time, so that will help as I also do. I am fine, living without physical help and doing what I need otherwise. Changed my supplemental insurance and they did not have my dentist listed, but my dentist has the regular insurance for that company and surprise! The company decided to grandfather me in so I do not need another dentist. Hurray! A lot has been happening in the last few months, this is just some of it. Stay warm and well. *Jane Reid*



With Deepest Sympathy

Clara Craft passed away early on the morning of March 3, 2021. She was in hospice care at the time of her passing. She would have celebrated her 91st birthday on April 8.

Clara and all seven of her children – Phyllis (Habib), Ruth (Martin), Ellen (Phillips), Beth (Morgan), Carl, Donna (Cain), and Don – were/are active for many years at CCVP. So were several of Clara's grandchildren.

Full obituary/tribute and memorial service plans at: [DignityMemorial.com Clara Ellen Craft](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ellen-craft).

We Find Joy and Give Thanks for...



Kids playing outside with hopscotch, chalk drawings on sidewalks, and other non-snow activities.

Lenten devotional books.

Jane Reid's family in Texas (Doug, Paul, Chris, and Olivia) getting through the cold weather.

God's creation.

God's everlasting love.

Family and friends during sad times.

April Celebrations



- 5 Diana Robbins
- 6 Laura Reed
- 18 Amelia Reed
- 20 Dan Carter



- 14 Betty & Steve Prorak
- 29 Amy & Ed Slinkman

Please Pray...



For families in Texas who are still coping with the aftermath of the cold weather that hit there.
For God's help during times of uncertainty and transition.

For the health and well-being of Carl Craft, Joan Kagebein, Nancy's Mendoza's father, and Joan Fuller's sister Gloria.

For Doris Carter and the Stewardship Council as they move forward with the sale of the church property to New Life Bible Chapel.

For Joanna Hays (Eric's wife) and her family as her grandmother died about three weeks ago. Joanna was in Poland with her grandmother at the time of her passing. Eric joined Joanna in Poland the following week.

For the family and friends of Clara Craft while they grieve her passing.

For more COVID vaccines to be available to those who want to get them.

For Laura Reed as she continues her work as our pastor.

Fund-raising with Amazon, Gift Cards



Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you do, a portion of your purchase price for qualifying items can come to the Christian Church of Villa Park by choosing the church as your recipient in their AmazonSmile program. It doesn't cost you anything extra to participate; it just shares the profit with a charity of your choice. If you have any questions, ask Betty Prorak.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of April. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by April 4 for them to be delivered by April 11. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.



The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order will be due on May 2. 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 www.shopwithscrip.com, please contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.



The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on March 28 and April 4, 2021, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ.

- developing Disciples
- forming new faith communities
- connecting with ministry partners around the world
- serving God's people in need.

Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. You may give through the church designating your gift to the Easter Offering, or you may give online at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.

Detroit Mission Trip Opportunity



SLAM (Service, Learning, Advocacy and Missions) is offering a chance to make a difference in people's lives!!

The group is organizing two mission trips to Detroit. The purpose is to assist people with home repairs and improvements and yard work. We are partnering with Rippling Hope Ministry in Detroit.

Rippling Hope Ministry was founded in 2011 by Carl and Robin Zerwick. Carl is a Disciples of Christ minister. This missional ministry has helped over 2500 homeowners in the painting of homes and garages, new handicap ramps, installed or repair door locks, build new or repair porches and stairs, boarding up abandon homes, cleaning unkept lots are a few of the projects that Rippling Hope has done.



The workday begins with an assignment and providing the necessary materials and tools needed for that day. We start no later than 9:00 a.m. and ends around 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. After supper one can relax or socialize in Detroit. Devotions close out the day.

The cost is \$180 per person. Meals and lodging are provided. No special skills are required. You are not expected to bring tools or any materials. Minors can attend with adult supervision.

We are offering two trips, one from July 27-August 1 and the other August 1-5.

The Detroit mission experience is lots of fun and powerful!!!

Sign up for the mission trip through the regional office. Scholarships are available. A deposit check of \$50 is required. It is refundable until July 15, non-refundable afterwards. Deadline to register is April 1.

Contact Bill Kerns at 217-824-8181 if you have questions.

To register online, go to:

https://cciwdisciples.org/portfolio/detroit-mission-trip-opportunity/?fbclid=IwAR0f935pkHUoIFairNnaLYL8ZZPuHmySN1IIdUNyfs_vhGfw_hzQmlOtqyg