

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, November 9, 2021



“We are all gifted by God.” We say it all the time, but what do we mean? We mean God is a generous and abundant creator and each and every one of us have a variety of gifts that we can use to embody our faith and show God's love in the world. We're not just talking about having lots of money and exceptional health. Each and every one of us are endowed by our Creator with an abundance of gifts that can be used to embody God's love in the world.

We have gifts of serving and teaching; we have gifts of caring and sharing the good news. We have gifts of music and story. We have gifts of time and gifts of money. All we have and all we are is from God.

Sometimes, particularly in stewardship season, we limit our minds to the material gifts we have in our lives. We lose sight of those everyday pieces of ourselves that are essential to fully living out our faith. As we think about how God calls us to follow, as individuals and community, let us recognize all the ways we can embody our faith each and every day. What gifts allow us to show our love at work and play, at school and home, with family and friends and random strangers? Our everyday lives are not separate from our faith. Faith is not just lived out in the church building on Sunday mornings or even Wednesdays at the Food Pantry.

Are there things you do every day that could help serve God? Can you speak a kind word? Give a listening ear? What about how you spend your money? Our budgets are documents that should embody our values, our faith. They outline our priorities in the big and small ways we live our lives. Which is why I encourage you to look closely at all your gifts, including your money, and dedicate a portion to the work of God in this congregation. We cannot do this work as individuals. All of us, all our gifts working together, enable us to live out God's call.

Let us give thanks for all that we have and all that we are. God has created us and gifted us. Let us shout praise. Let us share together in all we have and are as we live our lives in and for God's love. *Laura*

Worship on November 21

The worship service for November 21 has already been recorded. Why? Pastor Laura and pianist Eric will both be on vacation so decided to get this service done early.

The service will premiere on Facebook at 10:30 am CST on Sunday morning, November 21. You are invited to join a group in the sanctuary worshipping together or to worship from wherever you find yourself.

Sunday School will gather in person on November 21.

Thursday Gatherings

On 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. The meeting ID is 347 464 975 with password 186082. The Zoom computer link is in the weekly email announcements.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School starts at 9:00 am each Sunday. All ages are invited to gather together to hear the story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 am.

Ministry Gathering on Sunday, November 28

On Sunday, November 28, we will gather after worship to celebrate the gifts we bring to the work of the church and to talk about the new ways God is calling us to use those gifts.

We'll take time to eat before our conversation, spreading out throughout our worship space and fellowship hall. Then we will gather in person and through Zoom to hear from our ministry leaders and talk together. This will be one gathering, with Zoom connected to the physical gathering.

Please bring your own food and drink for our meal time.

Disciples Food Pantry

October Stats:

122 Households served

452 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.

October 31, 2021 Financial Summary

	October	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$7,418.00	\$87,471.33
Budgeted expenses:	\$6,231.06	\$84,581.76

Thank you for your faithful giving!

You Are Invited!

New Life Bible Chapel is holding a dedication service for their building (our former one) on Saturday, November 20, 2021, from 6:30-8:30pm. You are invited to this service and celebration. If you will be attending, please RSVP to newlifebiblechapel@yahoo.com.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- that after Ana Prorak had a mild case of COVID-19, her mom, dad, and brother, plus grandparents Betty and Steve, have all tested negative.
- for time to enjoy God's creation, whether locally or on vacation elsewhere.
- for fun costumes and for candy.
- for vaccines for children.
- for special birthdays this month. John Martin turned 70 on November 2, and Ken Newton will be 95 on November 11.
- for all those who taught us to love.
- that Tina Amodeo has been accepted into the Disciples' School of Ministry. She will have some orientation/get-to-know others time in December and will start classes in January.

Please Pray for...



- Ruth Martin.
- Minni Philip.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- Tina Amodeo.
- Nancy Stump's family and her church. Nancy passed away on October 23. She was the Associate Pastor of the Lynnville Christian Church.
- the Felix family and the Chicago Prorak household as they deal with quarantines after possible exposure to COVID while at school or in after-school care.

2022 Narrative Budget

Printed copies of the Narrative Budget for 2022 are being handed out at church or mailed. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call Betty Prorak at 847-977-0797 and she will see that you get it. Also available online at: [CCVP Narrative Budget 2022](#). Pledge at: [2022 CCVP Pledge Card](#).



Disciples Food Pantry Received a Grant!

Joan Fuller and/or Diana Robbins regularly apply for grants for the Disciples Food Pantry. This time when they applied to Northern Illinois Food Bank for funds to purchase a used van and additional refrigerators/freezers, they received a \$20,000 check! The check was delivered to Joan on Friday afternoon. She will soon be shopping for a used van to replace the old, often-in-need-of-repair pickup truck that she has been using for food pickups at Jewel and Target.

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 December. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by December 5 for them to be delivered by December 12. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.



The next ShopWithScrip gift card order will be due on January 9. 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.

December Celebrations

- 4 Daniella Felix
- 5 Betty Prorak
- 8 Nancy Mendoza
- 28 Eric Hays



- 9 Joan & John Fuller
- 28 Minni & Raja Philip

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Laura checked with New Life on the availability of our former sanctuary on the evening of December 24 and the worship committee agreed that we should hold our traditional Christmas Eve service there this year. Anyone attending will be required to wear a mask. Many other details need to be worked out, but we wanted to let you know that there will be room to invite guests to our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm, December 24, 2021.

Betty Prorak and the Worship Committee

That Shiny Thing

A poem by Tender Sender/Tina Marie Amodeo

When are You going to take a breath of fresh air?!!
God don't You remember that I'm a human heir?!
As I can only jump so far to reach the new layer.
I'm not a Divine being that can easily switch into a slayer.
Cutting through the "prickly" weeds that reach to the stars
And those yellow spreading rods of eye scratching bars.

I'm just achieving an age past being like a newcomer
Just a little child running to stay a forerunner
But my legs shake far beyond the lack of power
My reborn blood aches fighting the will to cower
Because all I want to do is please the Great One,
Yet, Lord, I just want to veer towards the world of fun.
Go play with the shiny things that swing
And have laughter erupt from my gut as I entertain a fling.
Drink more and more to where my eyes criss-cross
And the mirrored walls seem to have corners filled with moss.

Maybe find a little red fiber hiding in the green paper
But always will flip over any yellow in the white caper.
Because poison lurks in ways that will give the mind flight.
It will make one believe they can overcome any fight.

How little does the heart realize tricks aren't just for kids
That on my soul, the circle tightens its bids
Upon changing the door that I will tumble through
While hoping that I will about face the Who
Of how my focus will keep on feeding the flame
So that I will only, NOT, shout out the one singular name
And that name was found in the wreckage by the stool
When I first swallowed the shiny thing to be "cool".



Thanksgiving Offering

Received on November 14 and 21, 2021

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

As we continue to struggle with effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and they need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools add additional stress to students, faculty, and staff.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.