

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, June 8, 2021



It's done. We sold the building. There were some days it seemed like it would never happen, and then, all of a sudden, it was complete. We are no longer property owners. What are we going to do with ourselves now?

The process of selling, of packing and transforming and moving, has not been quick or simple. It has taken many, many hours of all different kinds of work and I want to deeply thank all those who have taken part. Thank you to Doris Carter, our Stewardship Council Leader and lawyer, who dealt with all the nitty gritty details, emails back and forth, and negotiations. Thank you to the Stewardship Council members (Chuck Bohl, Joan Fuller, Heidi Gomez, John Martin, Betty Prorak, Joshua Reed) who guided us through these decisions; who put in the labor of cleaning out the building and making decisions about what would move forward with us and what wouldn't. Thank you to the Worship Committee (John Martin, Ruth Martin, Joan Fuller, Betty Prorak, Joshua Reed) who designed our new worship space; who imagined and implemented the beautiful worship space we are creating. Thank you to all those others who lent hands, large and small, throughout this process including: Dan Carter, Jose Felix, Haley, Daniela, Sofia, Melina, Amelia, food pantry volunteers...It has truly taken a community to make this real.

But we still have this question; what are we going to do with ourselves now? Now we dream. As we settle into the reality of letting go of the fiscal, physical, and time burdens of maintaining property, we can put all those gifts to work in ministry of a new sort. Where will we go from here? We're listening for God's leadings together. Share how you hear God calling.

As we move into this new world, step out on this new journey, it will be exciting and it will be scary. It will be joyous and it will be sad. There will be times when we will miss the way things were and times we celebrate what we no longer have to do. We journey together, holding one another, as we discover what lies ahead.

Laura

Worship

Worship will continue on Facebook Live each Sunday at 10am. You are welcome in the new sanctuary at 10am 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.

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.

Stewardship Council Report

The closing on the sale of the church property to New Life took place on May 27, 2021. As of that date, New Life Bible Chapel became the owner of our property, including the church building and parsonage, and CCVP became a space sharing partner pursuant to a written Space Sharing Agreement between New Life and our church. The Space Sharing Agreement specifies the terms under which we can use the building and specifies the areas in which we will carry out our ministry. We will need to work to remember that we are now guests and not owners of the property.

We are fortunate that New Life supports the continuing work of the Disciples Food Pantry which will operate in a slightly re-configured space. We will be able to continue to operate from the same church office and the pastor's office. Thanks to the help of many people the west end of fellowship hall has been transformed to a dedicated worship space for our Sunday morning worship and other gatherings.

Much work had to be done over the last several months to prepare for the sale, including cleaning out, making decisions about what property inside the building should be retained by CCVP, what should be offered to New Life, and arranging for disposal or removal of the rest of the items. More work was done to design the new worship space, make necessary purchases and install new carpeting, furniture, and equipment.

Going forward, we will need to make adjustments in how things were done in the past as we are now space sharing partners instead of building owners. However, we will also be free of the responsibilities of building ownership and open to God's call for us for doing ministry in new ways in the future.

Personal note from Doris Carter: Thank you to the Stewardship Council members Chuck Bohl, Joan Fuller, Heidi Gomez, John Martin, Betty Prorak, and Josh Reed and to Pastor Laura who took on weighty responsibilities, sought out God's call for our church, and worked tirelessly for many months to get our church to this point.

May 31, 2021 Financial Summary

	May	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$9,348.18	\$50,938.88
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,544.96	\$49,728.07

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.

Love Your Neighbor Day 2021 Will Be Held on September 18, 2021



The Christian Church of Villa Park and other area churches will be working together again this year to hold the 7th annual Love Your Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 18, 2021 (rain date September 25, 2021). On Love Your Neighbor Day 2020 over 90 volunteers provided assistance to 21 homeowners.

Applications are now being accepted from homeowners in the Villa Park/Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with work around their homes because of financial or physical limitations and who could benefit from a group of people volunteering at their home for a day. Again this year, all work will be in the yard or on the exterior in the home to continue safety precautions. The work will be done by small groups of volunteers. If you or someone you know could use help from your neighbors, you are encouraged to apply now. Applications and more information can be obtained on the church website at www.ccvponline.net, by sending an e-mail to loveyourneighbor15@yahoo.com, or by contacting Doris Carter to have an application mailed to you. The deadline for submitting homeowner applications is August 20, 2021.

It is not too early to sign-up to be a volunteer for LYND 2021 to support this important ministry of our church. Volunteers have the option of signing up either as individuals to be assigned to a team or as a small group of people who want to work together. You can also obtain volunteer sign-up sheets on the church website, by e-mailing the above address or contacting Doris Carter. The deadline for submitting volunteer sign-up sheets is September 4, 2021. We hope you can volunteer and encourage family or friends to join you.



The Disciples Virtual Gathering on Saturday, August 7, 2021, is an opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church.

Our day together will focus on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God. The program will consist of bible lectures, educational workshops, and worship service, with invited speakers and presenters focusing on our theme.

Registration is now open! <https://disciplesconnect2021.vfairs.com>

Disciples Food Pantry

May Stats:

91 Households served

311 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.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



Haley Gomez was baptized and welcomed as a member of the church during worship on May 16.

Our worship service on Pentecost, May 23, was beautiful as we transitioned from worship in the sanctuary to our new worship space.

Members and friends who joined us in person in worship on May 23: Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker and Rev. Angelique Jordon Byrd from the CCIW Regional Staff, Chuck Bohl, Bob Foster and his wife, Clyde Kregger, Beth Morgan, Ken Newton, Minni and Raja Philip, Jane Reid, Sue and Ray Severino, and Elaine Smith along with Tina Amodeo, Dan Carter, Joan Fuller, Heidi Gomez with Haley, Daniela, Sofia, and Melina, Ruth and John Martin, Betty and Steve Prorak, Amelia and Joshua Reed, Aurora Slinkman, pianist Eric Hays, and Rev. Laura Jennison Reed.

Our new chairs and communion table have arrived and are in our new sanctuary. Most of the new light fixtures have been installed and most of the window decorations are in place.

Sofia's thumb did not require surgery for healing.

Please Pray for...



Ken Newton who will be having surgery on Thursday, June 10 to have a cardioverter-defibrillator implanted to help his heart.

The family of Jim Shoff, John Martin's brother-in-law, who passed away of May 27.

All who are struggling with mental health issues.

The health of Tina Amodeo, Ruth Martin, John Martin

Joan Kagebein and her husband/caregiver Carl

Carol Robbins and her husband/caregiver Jerry

Marion Kregger

Support for Laura as she carries out her work as our pastor.

Betty Prorak Begins Sabbatical

Betty Prorak will start our congregation's second round of sabbaticals for our leaders. We will back up in the fall to send Doris Carter on her overdue sabbatical after Love Your Neighbor Day.

Betty's 3-month sabbatical will begin Wednesday, June 9. Heidi Gomez will be editing the July and August Foresights while Diana Robbins will see to their mailing and Joshua Reid will get them posted on the church's website. Diana Robbins will keep the giving records up to date. (Betty is sending out "almost second-quarter" statements with this Foresight or by email on Tuesday.) Serving schedules have been tentatively put together through September; anyone changing duties should let Laura Reed know who their sub is.

Betty's plans for this time? She hopes to read through Richard J. Foster's *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* and complete its accompanying journal workbook. She has a lot of cleaning and organizing to do at home, especially after all the time spent doing that at the church building the last 2-3 months, and much weeding to do in her gardens. On the lighter side, there will be some traveling – maybe Scotland? – and time with family.

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 Great Lakes Scrip gift card order will be due on July 4. 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 next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of August. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by August 4 for them to be delivered by August 11. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group. [Yes, Betty insisted that it was easier for her to take care of these fundraisers during her sabbatical than to have someone else deal with the security issues with each account.]

Food for Thought...

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. – John 3:17

Jesus had a way of talking soft and outside of a few bankers and higher-ups among the con men of Jerusalem everybody liked to have this Jesus around because he never made any fake passes and everything he said went and he helped the sick and gave the people hope. – Carl Sandburg

Holy God, the earth is full of the glory of your love. May we your children, born of the Spirit, so bear witness to your Son Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, that all the world may believe and have eternal life through the One who saves, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

- From Revised Common Lectionary Prayer

July Celebrations



5 Alissa Verson
14 Jose Felix
31 Patti Sommers



4 Erica & James Schultz