

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: David Holston



Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Pastor's Letter

Friends,

Well, summer is over, and we are officially in the fall season, although recently the weather has felt like summer! It has been a busy time with our Kentucky Mission trip, the 11th annual Love Your Neighbor Day (LYND) on September 20, and a successful CROP walk on October 5. Thanks to all of you who participated in so many ways to these expressions of our small mission church. You truly are “*Called to Embody God’s Love*”!

As we entered the fall season, a few of us are studying a 2025 book by Erin Cash and Kory Wilcoxson titled *Thriving Church, What We Can Learn from Faithful Congregations*. 29 congregations, most of them Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches, were studied, and this book tells the stories of eleven of them and what makes them a thriving church.

The writers suggest that “*Being a thriving church is a journey, and not a destination.*” They also point out that two-thirds of all Disciples of Christ congregations worship with fewer than fifty persons on a Sunday morning. We recognize that we are in that category, attendance wise, but we celebrate our authenticity in building community and serving our neighbors in Villa Park.

Through scripture, prayer, worship, service, and discernment, we are called to grow and thrive in an uncertain future, as those before us did.

“*A Love That Embraces, Liberates, and Empowers, in Relationship With All That We Encounter*” is what we are called to. Exciting times are ahead for the Christian Church of Villa Park. God is calling us, and you, to produce good fruit. Come join us on this next journey!

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

We Walked. You Can Still Give

You can still donate to our local CROP Hunger Walk to help feed the hungry.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/christian-church-of-villa-park>

Looking Ahead....

- Pastor Dave is on vacation through Friday, October 17. (Please contact John Martin, Betty Prorak, or Ruth Sutter with pastoral needs. Phones respectively: 708-203-3460, 847-977-0797, 630-310-7156.)
- Each Wednesday, 7:00pm – Bible study via Zoom. Contact Pastor Dave, Tina Amodeo, or Betty Prorak for the link if you have not previously attended. Study begins at 6:00pm on evenings the Stewardship Council meets.
- Wednesday, October 22, 7:00pm – Stewardship Council meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, November 9, after worship – Congregational meeting (see details below)
- Wednesday, December 24, 7:00pm – Christmas Eve worship service.
- Monday, January 12, 11:00am – News deadline for the January edition of the Foresight.

Congregational Meeting on November 9 at the Carters' Home

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2025 after the worship service. The meeting will take place at the home of the Carters at 340 E. 16th Place, Lombard. Once the worship service is over, we will drive to the Carters' and the meeting will begin once we all arrive. If anyone cannot attend the meeting in person and would like to attend by Zoom, let Doris Carter or Pastor Dave know and a link to the meeting will be sent to you.

On the agenda for the meeting: (1) decisions to be made about the future direction of the church, and (2) discernment of Ruth Sutter as elder.

Disciples Food Pantry

July Stats:
202 Households served
623 People served

August Stats:
286 Households served
894 People served

September Stats:
200 Households served
636 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.

September 30, 2025 Financial Summary

	July	August	September	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$6,995.47	\$9,050.73	\$7,128.66	\$69,121.09
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,936.91	\$8,568.93	\$7,546.25	\$71,161.01

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on November 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 <https://www.raiseright.com/>, contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed on November 30 to be delivered on December 7. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

11th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day



The 11th annual Love Your Neighbor Day on September 20, 2025 was a success thanks to the support, prayer and participation of CCVP and other churches in Lombard and Villa Park. 145 volunteers came out for LYND 2025, and we were able to help a total of 35 homeowners in the Lombard/Villa Park area. This is 2 more homeowners than last year and the most we have helped to date. Check out our Love Your Neighbor Day Facebook page to see photos from the day.

The work that was done this year included painting, power washing, repairing decks and porches, outdoor plumbing work, replacing screens, washing windows, other small repairs, and hauling away junk. This is in addition to all of the yard clean up, weeding, and trimming of bushes and trees. We left every home in better shape than when we arrived.

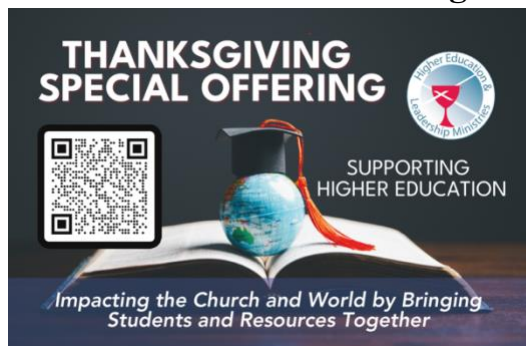
We have learned that the impact of LYND goes well beyond the actual work done on the homes. Our homeowners expressed their gratitude for the blessing of having volunteers to help them out with jobs they were unable to do themselves and how kind the volunteers were. Many volunteers expressed how meaningful it was to them to share God's love by helping their neighbors. One young man posted on Facebook:

"We had the privilege of volunteering for Love Your Neighbor Day, an inspiring event where a coalition of local churches come together every year to lend a helping hand to those in our community who could use a little extra support....The gratitude and smiles from those we assisted were priceless and heartfelt....It's uplifting to see how the power of community can raise our spirits when we stand together as one....Let's keep the momentum going and continue to spread kindness throughout the year."

We were again able to cover the cost of materials and supplies needed for doing the needed work for our homeowners with donated funds. We were also able to provide breakfast treats for our volunteers and lunches for our volunteers and homeowners with the contributions made by local businesses, including Chick-fil-A in Elmhurst, Mike's Meat Market, Subway, Kuppies Bakery, McDonald's in Villa Park, and Lilac Bakery in Lombard (thanks to the efforts of Ruth Martin in soliciting these contributions!). Waste Management picked up yard waste for our Lombard homeowners for free and LRS donated waste stickers for Villa Park residents. Ace Hardware contributed a gift card. Once again, we received a grant from the Village of Villa Park which was increased to \$2,500. Finally, Economy Disposal in Palatine gave us the use of two large dumpsters at no charge (we filled both of them!).

Love Your Neighbor Day continues to be a vital ministry for CCVP which is embraced by the community. Thanks to CCVP members Dan Carter and Ruth Martin who served on the Planning Team throughout the year. Thanks to the following members and family who volunteered: Tina Amadeo, Joan Fuller, Heidi Gomez, Christi Holston, Dave Holston, John Martin, Kim Martin, Minni Philip, Raja Philip, Randy Reid, Ruth Sutter, Marek Travniczek, Alissa Verson, and Justin Verson. We will be deciding on the date for the 12th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day at our LYND wrap up meeting at the end of October.

Thanksgiving Offering – November 16 & 23, 2025



The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church. [See a list of the colleges, universities, seminaries, foundations and divinity houses.](#)

Christmas Offering – December 14 & 21, 2025

The [Christmas Offering](#) supports [regional ministries](#). In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- Dave and Christi Holston are enjoying a real vacation (versus their “staycation” 3 months ago) in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and the Smoky Mountains.
- Roen Evans, the grandson of Joan Fuller’s best friend, had his surgery to repair a hole in his heart on October 10. The surgery went very well.
- Pastor Dave’s brother Bruce continues to recover from his heart surgery and plans to

be Santa this Christmas. Dave’s sister Laurie is back to work. Dave’s son Justin is doing much better and is working on giving up alcohol (keep praying!).

- Christi Holston’s most recent eye surgery appears to have gone well. She has regained enough sight to be able to drive again.
- Our regional church has a new Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. William Crowder.
- Pastor Dave, Doris & Dan Carter, and Raja Philip attended the recent Regional Assembly.
- Amanda Prorak (Betty’s daughter-in-law) thanks us for our prayers for her niece Riley Whittaker. Riley’s baby was not due until late October, but her bag of water burst in late August, leading to a long hospital stay for Riley. Maggie Jo was born on September 20. Mom went home a few days later; Maggie Jo came home on October 12.
- Tina Amodeo’s neighbor Dan is doing well; no further problems with his transplanted kidney. Tina’s neighbor Irma is much better since her alcoholic husband moved out.
- Tina Amodeo has completed all the forms to enter a long-term care facility. She is on the waiting list.
- Abby Kumar is doing well in India.
- Tina Amodeo’s brother Ronnie was hit by a car while riding his bike on August 22, but suffered only bruises. Giving thanks that he survived, that someone found him unconscious and called 911.
- The inurnment service of Jane Reid’s ashes went well on August 13.
- Pastor Ruth Sutter and her partner Cherie Long-Sutter placed membership with our church during worship on Sunday, August 3. Ruth was present in our worship space; Cherie joined us by phone while watching online. Our first online new member!
- Tina Amodeo’s mother (also named Tina) had successful eye surgery on August 4.
- Betty Prorak’s friend Pat Manahan got good news from her cardiologist about her echocardiogram. She was just given a low dose beta blocker to lower her pulse and blood pressure.
- We enjoyed a wonderful service of music on July 27 provided by Mickey O’Brien and friends Joanna Angumei, Jeri-Ann Day, Noah Christiansen, Ashley Silerio, and Matt Smith.
- The work done in Kentucky in July by the mission team from First Church of Lombard and CCVP went very well.
- Jimmy Thurman’s daughter Charlotte is completely healed from her foot surgery in June.
- Heidi’s grandmother’s visa has been approved to visit the family in the U.S. She will get to meet her great grandchildren when she comes at the end of the year.
- John Martin is doing well, completely recovered from his neck surgery.
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!

Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!).
- Continued guidance/discernment about the future of our congregation.
- the safety of many immigrants, including the church's neighbors and the thousands in Chicago and suburbs.
- Roen Evans, grandson of Joan Fuller's best friend, as he recovers from his heart surgery.
- Pastor Dave's sister Jeannie who has cancer and continues in hospice.
- Pastor Dave's sister Cindee Gregorek.
- The continued recovery of Pastor Dave's brother Bruce from heart surgery.
- Maria, Heidi's neighbor, who has cancer, had surgery, and is undergoing cancer treatments.
- families and friends who mourn the passing of José Soria (Heidi's uncle), Jane Reid, George Cradic (Doris Carter's cousin), Jerry Robbins, and Melanchthon Philip.
- Michele Grayson's daughters Katy and Cindy, and for her husband who is having heart issues.
- Lucy Carter and Carol Carter, Dan and Doris Carter's sisters-in-law.
- Robert Schumacher's daughter Christine who is struggling with alcohol.
- Robert Schumacher who has recently been diagnosed with the lung problem COPD.
- Tina Amodeo, who is currently in rehab at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove. She will be released on October 21, hopefully to a long-term care facility. Otherwise, she will be going home to wait for a bed to open.
- 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; Harrison and family in Nigeria; Melissa who is recovering from successful heart surgery, and her alcoholic husband Paul; Amanda; Christine; Anthony; Shawna and Cheryl, both of whom have advance M.S. and are looking forward to heaven.
- Deb from Bible study asks for continued prayers for her friend Donna who remains hospitalized.
- Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120). Ken fell from his bed on October 6. Nothing is broken, but he is in pain. The Directors at Vines say it is time for hospice/better pain management.
- The healing/well-being of:
 - Amy Crouch
 - Abby Kumar
 - John Martin (he recently fell again)
 - Ruth Martin
 - Michele Grayson
 - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff
 - Minni Philip
 - Tina's dad Sam (back pain)
 - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
 - Tina's mom (also named Tina)
 - Carol Robbins
 - Carl Kagebein
 - Pantry clients, especially Tom, Darren, and Katherine.
 - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria, who is in long-term nursing care
 - Heidi and family

November, December, January Celebrations

November 2 John Martin
 11 Ken Newton (#99)
 15 Steve Prorak
 24 Tina Amodeo



December 4 Daniella Felix
 5 Betty Prorak
 January 8 Justin Verson



November 19	Heidi & José Felix
December 9	Joan & John Fuller
28	Minni & Raja Philip
January 3	Diane & Chuck Bohl
9	Doris & Dan Carter

(untitled poem) 9/23/25

Lord, I just don't know how to navigate this hopeless repeat.
All I ponder is that it's time to run, to hide, to retreat.
That I need to stop trying to understand the why of it.
That the 1% is just not enough to wade through the shit.

O God, please, help this tragedy at your feet.
Please, build me a forever home with a protected seat.
Please show me where I can safely lay my head.
Please, give me rest in an unconditional bed.

I pray that I will close my eyes to peacefully sleep.
That the Lord will forever hold my soul to keep
But if I shall finally die before I wake,
I thankfully pray that my soul the Lord will take.

Until you finally let me go to my forever home,
Please don't let my mind and heart dangerously roam.
Please let me remember your loving arms that once caressed
My broken heart and shattered dreams that abscessed.

So, please, continue to light the path before me
As I try to step over the fallen branches of a dying tree
That seems to happen daily in my periodic crawls
As I bow my head in pleads while my heart bleeds and bawls.

Tender Sender/Tina Marie Amodeo