

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Friday, April 8, 2022



Lent is almost over. Every year it seems to last forever, and yet, the end always sneaks up on me. On Sunday we enter Jerusalem ahead of Jesus, waving our palms, shouting in celebration and joy. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Our faith and our hopes are high. It is a day of sunshine and hope and yet...it is also the day we enter Holy Week and things will rapidly descend from the highs of celebration to the lows of pain and loss.

How often do we wish we could jump straight from the joyous parade to the glory of the resurrection and skip everything in the middle? After all, why should we dwell on the negative? Isn't life hard enough?

It is. But that's why we must slog through the days between Sundays. As much as we wish to jump from joy to joy, never letting our feet touch the ground, it's just not possible. Our faith is built from and for real life, life that is beautiful and joyous and harsh and painful. To experience our absolute joys, we must know the realities and depths of pain and sorrow. The resurrection isn't at all exciting if we do not acknowledge Jesus dies. What is miraculous about an empty tomb if we do not know the grief of laying a loved one to rest in it?

I'm never really ready for the end of Lent, perhaps because I'm really not ready for Easter. Getting ready for joy has been harder for the last few years than sitting with the discomfort of things which are not as they should be. But, while we can't skip over the hard things, we also need to be reminded that, even in the worst of times, there is hope, all is not lost. There is light in the darkness because Christ Emmanuel, God-with-us, has come and will always be with us.

Laura

Holy Week Schedule

- 10:30am, Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday worship service
- 7:00pm, Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday worship service in person and via [Zoom](#) (This is the Lenten Thursday prayer service link, Meeting ID: 347 464 975, Password: 186082)
- 6:30am-7:30pm, Friday, April 15 – Prayer Vigil (If the schedule is full, you may pray at any time. See online sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49afab29a4f8c52-good1 or contact Betty Prorak.)
- 8:30am, Sunday, April 17 – Service of baptism for Daniela Felix in the main sanctuary.
- 9:15am, Sunday, April 17 – Potluck brunch celebration
- 10:30am, Sunday, April 17 – Easter worship service in person and on Facebook Live.

Foresight News Deadline

The next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on July 5, with a news deadline of 11am on July 4. Feedback? Contact Betty Prorak and/or Laura Reed.

Stewardship Council Update

In March 2022, the Stewardship Council updated the COVID guidelines for in-person worship or other activities in our worship space or otherwise in the building. The changes to the guidelines were made after consideration of the current CDC and local health department guidelines and risk assessments for DuPage County.

- Masks are optional for those attending worship or engaging in any other ministry work associated with CCVP.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well or have a fever over 100 degrees.
- Stay home if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer as needed.
- Immediately notify the church if you have joined us for worship and subsequently test positive for COVID-19 and advise the dates and times you were in the building recently.

Know that it is certainly acceptable if you want to continue to wear a mask while in the worship space. Currently some people attending worship are wearing masks and some have chosen not to do so. This policy is subject to change and the Stewardship Council will monitor any changes in risk assessments for our area and CDC and local health department advisories.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School starts at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September through May.

All ages are invited to gather together 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

Dan Carter Seeking Support for Mission Trip to Costa Rica

Dan Carter will once again be joining a group from First Church of Lombard and heading to Costa Rica in July to build more homes for people in need. The First Church group continues to work with the local organization Mercy Homes that has now built over 190 homes with volunteers. Each mission team coming to Costa Rica needs to raise money to cover the cost of building materials and some local skilled labor to build each home. The First Church team of 10 people expect to build 2 homes, so \$14,000 needs to be raised. If you saw the presentation made by Dan, Doris and Minni Philip after returning from Costa Rica a few years ago, you will recall how the homes built by our local team transformed the lives of the families who received them. If you would like to support the work of Dan and the rest of the mission team, you can make a contribution to CCVP marked as "Costa Rica." The total raised from our church members will then be sent to First Church of Lombard to be combined with other funds being raised to build the homes.

Looking Ahead....

- The Elders will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Sunday, April 10.
- The Worship committee will meet via Zoom at 1:30pm on Friday, April 22.
- CCVP 20/20 will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Sunday, May 1.
- The Stewardship Council will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 4.
- Pentecost is on Sunday, June 5.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Monday, June 6.

March 31, 2021 Financial Summary

	January	February	March	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$10,014.75	\$6,810.06	\$6,091.68	\$23,008.99
Budgeted expenses:	\$6,767.18	\$8,224.45	\$6,064.69	\$21,056.32

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Disciples Food Pantry

January Stats:	February Stats:	March Stats:
111 Households served	127 Households served	203 Households served
428 People served	483 People served	828 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...



- for the rest of the Carter and Verson families staying healthy back in January when Alissa contracted COVID, and for Alissa's quick recovery.
- for Joshua Reed's safe business travel back in February.
- for the children's enthusiastic participation in worship.
- for Spring, even as the weather teases us with occasional snow.
- with Steve and Betty Prorak for safe travels, time with family in California, and the beauty of creation that they saw along the way.
- with the Reed family and others for spring break and family time together.
- for those who stepped in to lead worship on March 20 when others were sick.
- with Jane Reid, who had a mild case of pneumonia last month. She is thankful for all the medical help available to her at home, including an x-ray.
- for birthdays and their celebration.
- for the baptism of Daniela Felix that will take place on Easter morning.

Please Pray for...



- Tina Amodeo, who was hospitalized for about a week before she was sent to Alexian Brothers Acute Rehab. She will be in rehab until at least April 11.
- the safety of Minni and Melanchthon Philip traveling in India (and eventually back home).
- the health of Teresa Shoff (John Martin's sister).
- John Martin's health.
- Ruth Martin.
- Joan Fuller's sister Gloria's health.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- the Kregger family. Marion Kregger entered hospice care on February 17. Her husband Clyde passed away on February 21. Marion followed him two days later on February 23.
- the Chance and Potee families. Former member and music director Vivian Potee passed away in hospice care on April 6.
- healing for Debra Studniarz's hands.
- Chuck and Diane Bohl's health.

May, June, and July Celebrations

May 15 Carol Robbins
15 Aurora Slinkman
16 Joan Kagebein
21 Chloe Slinkman
24 Chuck Bohl
27 Joshua Reed



June 1 Jane Reid
29 Joan Fuller
29 Kailash Naidoo
July 5 Alissa Verson
14 Jose Felix
31 Patti Sommers



May 1 Ruth & John Martin
June 4 Laura & Joshua Reed
June 22 Joan & Carl Kagebein
July 4 Erica & James Schultz

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.



ShopWithScrip gift card orders will be due on May 1 and July 3. 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 orders for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of June. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by June 5 for them to be delivered by June 12. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

Special Easter Offering

Received on April 10 and 17

The Easter Offering supports General Ministries of the Church. General ministries serve across the United States and Canada, and around the world. General Ministries also partner in ministry with a variety of far-reaching and unique organizations. To learn more about General Ministries go to: <https://disciples.org/general-ministries/>.

Pentecost Special Offering

Received on May 29 and June 5

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the New Church Ministry.

More information is available at: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost/>.

You can give online to either or both of these special offering at: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>.