

Foresight

Looking to the Future

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



Tuesday, May 11, 2021



We are in the full bloom of spring, a time of transitions. As we watch the world around us unfold from winter hibernation, we see each day bring something new. We smiled at the early blooms of April and marvel at the multitude of bird songs now. But it is not only the nature that is transitioning, it is us, our community.

At the end of this month, we will be selling our property and becoming space-sharing partners in the building we have called our own for 62 years. It is a time of grief and excitement. This has been our home for so long the idea of doing something new is hard to imagine. Moving is hard. There is the packing up, the sorting through, the saying goodbye. Yet, the possibilities of what's next move us forward.

I have recent, personal experience with grief and excitement. Just two weeks ago, our family said goodbye to our home of 9 years (the only home Amelia had ever known) and moved to a new home. We didn't go far and we are excited about all the possibilities the new home gives to us, but that doesn't mean it was easy to let go. We have so many memories in our old home. We piled up so much stuff in the closets. Yet, this is a chance for new possibilities. So that we may grow and live in new ways, we had to let go and said goodbye. The same is true for our church community as we move through this transition. We say good-bye in order to make space for new ways of being together.

Our family took intentional time to say goodbye to our old space and give thanks for all that it has meant to us. As a church community we will do the same. We are not truly moving far, just down the hall, but the mental move will be significant. Throughout May we are saying goodbye and acknowledging the difficulties of change. On May 23, Pentecost Sunday, we will celebrate our last Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary. It will be a service of letting go and creating anew. We will start in the sanctuary but will find ourselves, drawn by the Spirit, in our new worship space by the end of the service. It will not be complete, for we are always growing and changing in God, but we will begin something new. We will enter a new space being created for our community in the west end of fellowship hall (what has been Disciples Food Pantry storage). A new space that will help us envision our life together in new ways.

Transitions are hard. We can feel lost and alone along the way. But we are not alone and we are not lost. God is with us and we are with Her. Jesus abides in us and us in Him. Our home is in the Divine. It is not a place, but a life and we are living it as we have been called. Our path is new, but it is firm beneath our feet.

Laura

Worship

Worship will continue on Facebook Live each Sunday at 10am. You are welcome in the sanctuary through May 23 and in our new worship space starting May 30 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.

Join Us for Sunday School! Only 2 Classes Left This Season



We meet by Zoom at 11:30am for an all-ages Sunday school. We hope you will join us 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. We have two Sundays left this season, May 16 and May 23.

Laura Reed, Ruth Martin, Betty Prorak

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.

Disciples Food Pantry

April Stats:

90 Households served

341 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.

April 30, 2021 Financial Summary

	April	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$7,148.00	\$41,620.70
Budgeted expenses:	\$9,725.65	\$42,183.11

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

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



Chuck Bohl has recovered from his surgery and is back to his volunteer position at the Food Pantry.

Laura, Joshua and Amelia Reed moved into a house on April 26.

Amelia Reed enjoyed her birthday with two parties – one outside on her birthday and one in her new house the weekend before she and her family moved in.

Heidi Gomez gives thanks for gardens and good neighbors.

Tina Amodeo is home from rehab.

Please Pray for...



All who are struggling with mental health issues.

Tina Amodeo. While she is home after hospitalization and rehab, she continues to struggle, especially physically.

Joan Kagebein

Carol Robbins

Marion Kregger

The sale of our church building. The closing date is set for May 27, but there are many things that must be done between now and then.

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

The people of India. Raja and Minni Philip had a relative there die of COVID.

New Address

Joshua, Laura, and Amelia Reed
517 S Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60304

Another New Address

Artemis, Gary, and Heather Smith
607 Rich Lane
Bartlett, IL 60103

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 June. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by June 6 for them to be delivered by June 13. 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 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.



June Celebrations



1 Jane Reid
29 Joan Fuller
29 Kailash Naidoo



4 Laura & Joshua Reed
22 Joan & Carl Kagebein

Food for Thought and Action...

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead. - James 2:26

It doesn't matter how strong your opinions are. If you don't use your power for positive change, you are, indeed, part of the problem. - Coretta Scott King

Lord, keep us free from fear and selfish preoccupations that we may walk as you walked among those whom the world routinely neglects.

- Adapted from Common Prayer



Be the New Church

For the past fourteen months, many of us have stayed away from our places of worship to keep ourselves and our faith communities safe.

How have new church leaders responded? By launching communities of faith in creative and innovative ways.

It's looked like spreading the word about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Door Dash food deliveries, meeting with folks every week on Zoom to discuss anxiety, and making sure that the spiritual needs of transitioning out of correctional facilities are met.

From hospital and prison chaplains to tri-vocational pastors, courageous new church leaders have answered the call to **be the new church**.

To support them and their efforts to continue the new church movement, please contribute to the 2021 Pentecost Offering, collected in most congregations on Sundays, May 16 and May 23. Each year, half of the gifts made go to your own Region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. Through programs such as Leadership Academy, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants, your gifts make a difference across the life of the Church. By participating in this Special Day Offering, you ensure the viability, vitality and sustainability of unique new church plants in your area and in states, provinces, and territories far away.

Let's all **be the new church**, together.

Congregation Etz Chaim presents

**Moses Through Three Traditions:
A Muslim, Christian and Jewish Perspective on Our Shared Prophet**

Thursday, May 20
7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom
includes Q and A

our distinguished panel

		
Dr. Sabeel Ahmed	Dr. Christie Billups	Rabbi Ricky Kamil
Executive Director GainPeace Project	Assisnant Professor of Theology, Lewis University	Associate Rabbi Congregation Etz Chaim

To RSVP and receive the Zoom link, please email Interfaith Outreach Co-chairs, Barbaras Margolis and Turner, cec.io@congetzchaim.org or phone 630.627.3912.

Link for registering:
[Register here](#)