

Foresight

Looking to the Future

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



Tuesday, April 11, 2023



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!! What joyful words, what amazing news! As Christians, we are blessed to be reminded each and every year that death does not have the final word, God is doing a new thing, writing a new story.

Easter is an incredible gift, but it doesn't make starting our new chapters, our new stories easy. The beginnings may be new, but they don't come from nothing. They arise from all that has come before. A new beginning means something is ending. Things will no longer be the same. Resurrection is a gift that changes everything.

When I announced in February that my time as pastor of this congregation is coming to a close, I think many of us struggled to imagine what could possibly be next. I know I did. We have spent nine years together, and it has been beautiful. Even as I knew (and know) that this change is God's call on my life, that I have ideas and plans for what is to come in my life, imagining my life without this congregation is still fuzzy and hard to visualize. I imagine that some of you might have felt similarly. It seems impossible to think about changed relationships and stories. Yet, resurrection reminds us that nothing is impossible with God. Indeed, resurrection is only possible when all is at an end.

As a congregation, you have been discerning what is next, what the new chapter of your ongoing story looks like. Slowly, but surely, visions are forming. Christ is Risen! A new story, a new chapter, is being told. Christ is Risen! Our imaginations expand because with God, nothing is impossible. Christ is Risen Indeed!!

Laura

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School starts at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September through May 21.

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

March 31, 2023 Financial Summary

	January	February	March	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$8,027.65	\$7,954.29	\$5,974.24	\$22,046.18
Budgeted expenses:	\$6,907.51	\$6,412.40	\$7,191.98	\$21,003.99

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Looking Ahead...

- May 28 is Pentecost
- June 11 will be the last Sunday that Laura serves as our pastor. Plans are being made for a reception after worship.

Disciples Food Pantry

January Stats:
137 Households served
494 People served

February Stats:
156 Households served
649 People served

March Stats:
181 Households served
736 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.

Foresight News Deadline

The next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on July 11 with a news deadline of 11am on July 10. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at BLProrak@yahoo.com or mail it to the church.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- that we had 26 worshippers present in person on Easter morning!
- for the 15 worshippers who came for the evening service on Maundy Thursday. (That was a great surprise birthday present for Laura.)
- for Amelia Reed's enthusiastic participation in Sunday school and worship, especially in dialogue during the sermon and as a reader.
- for Spring with its milder temperatures, greening grass, and singing birds.
- with Steve and Betty Prorak for safe travels, time with family in California, and the beauty of creation that they saw along the way.
- for grandchildren who continue to delight their grandparents (Carters, Martins, Proraks...).
- with families who had spring breaks and family time together.
- for those who stepped in to lead worship on March 19 when Laura was called out of town.
- with Jane Reid for her sons and the help they provide to her, including Randy bringing her to in-person worship on Easter morning. It was a joy to have both of them there!
- for Pastor Laura Jennison Reed.
- for Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker and Rev. Angee Jordan Byrd (staff of the CCIW regional office) who are helping CCVP with finding our next pastor.
- for the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- for the pray-ers who participated in the Good Friday prayer vigil: Betty Prorak, Laura Reed, Ken Newton, Dan Carter, Raja Philip. Chuck Bohl, Heidi Gomez, Sue Severino; Jane Reid, Jayne Hochstetler, Joshua Reed, Erica Schultz, Joan Fuller, John Martin, and Tina Amodeo.

Please Pray for...



- the health of Tina Amodeo and her parents.
- John Martin who is scheduled for surgery tomorrow (April 12) at Good Samaritan Hospital.
- Ruth Martin
- the health of Teresa Shoff (John Martin's sister).
- Jerry Robbins who has recently moved into long-term care at the Springs of Monarch Landing.
- Carol Robbins who is also in long-term care at the Springs. She may eventually be moved into the memory care unit if a space becomes available.
- former member Jayne Hochstetler who has been diagnosed with stage 4 small cell lung cancer. She is undergoing treatment which she says is going well.
- Joan Fuller's sister Gloria's health.
- Joan Kagebein's family as they continue to adjust to life without her.
- Joshua Reed's family after the death of his brother David on March 8.
- Doris Carter, Christine Tani, and Alissa Verson during a time of transition as the law firm of Carter & Tani will be closing by May 1 after 32 years of service. (Doris, Christine and Alissa will be joining another firm.)
- our regional church, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) as Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker will be retiring as Regional Minister on September 1, 2023.
- support for Laura as she carries out her work as our pastor while taking classes to prepare for nursing school.
- Joshua and Amelia Reed during this time of transition.
- our congregation as it transitions to a new pastor.
- the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

CCVP Moving Forward...

As you have seen in this Foresight, and perhaps have heard earlier, Laura's last day as our pastor will be Sunday, June 11. The Stewardship Council arranged this with Laura, extending her original last day of May 7. As part of that extension, Laura will have reduced responsibilities between May 7 and June 11. Individuals in the congregation will start covering some of Laura's duties. As details fall into place, announcements of things that the congregation needs to know will be included in worship and in the weekly emails.

Meanwhile, all members who were interested met on March 8 with Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker and Rev. Angee Jordan Byrd of the Regional Staff to discuss what we are looking for in our next pastor and what we have to offer as a salary package. It was decided that initial interviews should be done by three members, rather than all who have been attending the congregational meetings. Betty Prorak, Raja Philip, and Dan Carter volunteered/were selected to conduct the interviews. Teresa has sent us contact information for four candidates. The interview committee met last night to discuss what questions to ask. The first round of interviews will be scheduled this week and next. Please keep the committee, the congregation and the candidates in your prayers.

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card orders will be due on April 30 and June 25. 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/>, 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 May. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by May 7 for them to be delivered on May 14. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

May, June, and July Celebrations

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



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



May 1 Ruth & John Martin
June 4 Laura & Joshua Reed
July 4 Erica & James Schultz

Thoughts from Jane Reid

Jane has attended some of the recent congregational meetings via Zoom as CCVP's transition to a new pastor has been discussed. However, she could only listen as her computer does not have a microphone and her typing is not fast enough to make comments during the meetings. She sent the following to Betty Prorak:

CCVP THEN

With the depression and WW2 behind us, and the men back home, new homes and cars among other things, were building in quantity. Places like Villa Park had a lot of land for building homes and many Disciples from Chicago and suburbs were moving westward. A decision to create a new church began with 22 people and a new minister would take on the challenge. They met in the basement of the Saatkamp home. One of the first things needed was a place to worship. The Mason's offered their building on Sundays only. The Board, Cabinet, Deacons-Deaconesses, choir, and the CWF were created. They met in our homes! The women wanted summer Bible school for the children. 100 children signed up! By this time over 250 families had joined in less than a year. Ten women opened their homes for two weeks each morning with others doing the teaching. We needed office work done. No computers, printers, faxes, cell phones, were even thought of then. Some people had typewriters and the work was divided up. What needed to be was done. We thought "outside the, box" to achieve so much. It was an exciting time. No, we did not have a food pantry, but had a mother who was expecting a fourth child and the doctors found a deadly form of cancer riddling her body. Women came three times a week with food, talked with her and did little things that needed to be done. The front porch needed repair, and some men did that. During that time their house burned down! We built a new one with help from the community. Betty recovered when she was not supposed to. I was confused about what happened there. Years later I understood it was a miracle and what made it happened. Luke 6: 35-38.

CCVP TODAY

What can we learn from them? Have services in the home? Form a new board (Council), this time made up all the members including children, to meet once a month (?) to discuss concerns, thus eliminating all committees? The meetings could be after church with a pot luck dinner or maybe to a restaurant that has a small room to use. We still would ask for offerings. The money we got for the sale of the building would only be used to help those in need both here and abroad. That would become our main focus.

In closing, I reread the hoped-for new pastor would have certain traits (a list that was emailed to all members). If she/he would have 50% of these we would be lucky! Something happened to my brain as I read them and suddenly I was reading them as if they were hopes/expectations for us! Then I remembered how we took care of each person through the years. We were a true church family. Eventually that decreased. And very little of that happens now. Why would someone join our church? The other thing I suggest is listening to recordings of those who have exciting ideas to offer, maybe instead of a sermon, especially while we no pastor..... I know this was long but hopefully not dull.

Pentecost Offering

May 21 and 28, 2023

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](#).

[Please give generously to this year's Pentecost offering.](#)

Lois Reynold's Memorial Service

When Lois Reynolds passed away on September 29, 2022, her family announced that her memorial service would be held this spring. That time has come. The service will be held at Lake Allatoona in Georgia on April 29, 2023. If you would like more information, contact Gary Reynolds at garys88keys@yahoo.com, or 630-484-5430 or 7272 Warfside Lane, Apt 1B, Indianapolis, IN 46214.