

Foresight

Looking to the Future

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



Tuesday, December 14, 2021



It's Advent again. Our second pandemic Advent. Yet, it is different from the first. We are not as physically isolated, as a rule. We look forward to gathering in person and online each Sunday as we wait and prepare. We will be gathering together physically as well as spiritually for our traditional Christmas Eve service. Many of us are now vaccinated, something that was not even an option a year ago. We feel more confident gathering with some family and friends to celebrate and share the love of the season.

But all is not light and joy. We still hold much anxiety about the state of our world. We feel the need to plan more diligently and talk more carefully before welcoming others into our homes or accepting the invitations of others. Many are still getting sick and dying. Many are still looking for work that pays well and allows them a reasonable amount of safety. We are still at odds with each other over many things. There are still many suffering the effects of isolation and loneliness. We are still separated and in the dark in so many ways.

But that darkness is what Advent is for. It is a period of waiting, of hope, of knowing the promise of a light in the darkness is coming, but not yet seeing it. We can't skip straight to the joy of the birth of Christ. First, we wait. We recognize why Christ needed to be born among us. Why Christ still needs to be born among us.

In Advent, we hold the hope of the world as God desires it to be and our present realities simultaneously. Our joy in the birth is contingent on recognizing what it truly promises, not easy happiness and presents, but deep joy in the peace of God's justice, God's love fully embodied in the world and our lives.

Thank God we do not do this alone, hold our hope and our waiting. We wait with one another. We wait with those we know and those we don't. Those with us now and those who have preceded us in the faith. We are a community of the faithful, walking together, growing together, waiting together to birth God into the world.

Laura

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our former sanctuary is available for our use on the evening of December 24 and the worship committee agreed that we should hold our traditional Christmas Eve service there this year. There will be room to invite guests to the service that will begin at 7:00pm, Friday, December 24, 2021. Anyone attending will be required to wear a mask, especially since we will sing Christmas carols!



This service will not be broadcast live or video recorded as all of the equipment needed for that is not easily moved and set up. A recorded service of some kind (maybe last year's?) will be posted on Facebook.

The Worship Committee

Congregational Meeting Following Worship on December 19

A congregational meeting will be held in person and via [Zoom](#) after worship on Sunday, December 19, 2021 to consider the proposed budget for 2022.

The congregation faithfully and generously responded with pledges that support most of the budget. The total spending of the proposed budget comes to \$89,161, after some changes made at the Stewardship Council meeting on December 1. With the estimates of giving received by Consecration Sunday plus the expected income from gift card programs, our projected income is about \$85,526.

The Stewardship Council recommends approving this unbalanced budget, stepping out in faith. There is surplus remaining from the 2021 budget to cover the proposed 2022 shortfall without using any income from the sale of the building. In addition, this is a year of many changes and unknowns. The budget proposed is what we think will be needed to live into God's call, but we will discover what some actual expenses are as we live more deeply into our call. We anticipate that the budget for 2023 will be both a better reflection of the costs of our ministry and balanced.

Please prayerfully consider the proposed budget in these days leading up to the Congregational Meeting.

Betty Prorak, Financial Secretary

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School starts at 9:00 am each Sunday. All ages are invited to gather together to hear the story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 am.

Disciples Food Pantry

November Stats:

134 Households served

486 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.

November 30, 2021 Financial Summary

	November	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$6,910.75	\$94,382.08
Budgeted expenses:	\$6,509.93	\$91,091.69

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Disciples Food Pantry Bought a Van!

Joan Fuller did her research while waiting for the grant check to arrive, so the Pantry purchased a used van on November 9. It is a cargo van and only had 55,000 miles on it at the time of purchase. It has already been used many times to haul groceries from Jewel, Target, and other donors.



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.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- for the building dedication service that New Life Bible Chapel held on November 20. Tina Amodeo, Joan Fuller, and Betty Prorak attended.
- for the wonderful vacation that Laura and Joshua Reed had in Puerto Rico before Thanksgiving.
- for Grandma and Grandpa Jennison who stayed with Amelia while her parents were on vacation.
- for creative birthday gifts that Steve and Betty Prorak received from granddaughters Mari and Thia.
- for vaccines that children have received.
- that the Felix family's house did not burn down when their furnace caught fire. (Daniela told Betty Prorak during Sunday school, "Worst birthday ever!")
- that Tina Amodeo was quite excited after her first cohort meeting with other School of Ministry students.
- that the local CROP Walk raised \$1,236.57 for the Disciples Food Pantry to be used for food from Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Please Pray for...



- Tina Amodeo's brother, who needs a kidney.
- Minni Philip.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- Tina Amodeo, who is in rehab at Marianjoy. She is scheduled to return home on Saturday.
- Joan Fuller, recovering from the shingles.
- family and friends of Susan Robinson who was known as Q by other Pantry volunteers and many friends. Q passed away on Tuesday, November 23.
- the family of Jesse, a relative of Doris Carter, who passed away in late November.
- healing for Dave and Judy Graanstra (Amanda Prorak's parents) who both recently tested positive for COVID. They are both fully vaccinated, but have developed some COVID symptoms.
- the Felix family to return to the "normal" chaos of family life (after electrical problems with ComEd, the furnace fire, each child being quarantined for COVID exposure at different times, and some catching a cold/flu bug).
- Heather Smith who had surgery on November 18 for tubes to drain her inner ear.

January Celebrations

- 6 Vivian Mendoza
- 8 Justin Verson



- 3 Diane & Chuck Bohl
- 9 Doris & Dan Carter

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 ShopWithScrip gift card order will be due on January 9. 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 February. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by February 6 for them to be delivered by February 13. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

Christmas Offering Supports Our Regional Ministries

IMAGINE
God's Love
REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



The Committee on Ministry members walk with leaders through the process of becoming Ordained or Commissioned Ministers. This Regional Committee is important to the vitality of the Region and the larger church. Below are two testimonials attesting to God's Love being revealed through this process.

"If Advent means "the arrival of a notable person, time or event", then my role serving on the Committee on Ministry is witnessing just that; experiencing the process (advent) of each candidate as they begin their journey into the ministry, whether through ordination or the commissioning process. Reading their Spiritual Autobiographies prior to their first meeting with our committee, following their progress, and interviewing them for ordination a few years later, we get to experience first-hand their spiritual growth and maturity until their birth. And for me personally, I receive much more from each individual than I have ever given to them. It is indeed an honor and privilege to be a part of this committee and to witness this advent from a front row seat."
– Sylvia Laidig

"In my many years of church service this has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding committees to serve on. I've even enjoyed the preparation needed in reading papers and other documents. I will miss all of this but especially fellowship with the other committee members."
– Larry Pepper

Thank you for revealing God's Love in your offering to support the ministries we share through The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. Your offerings make a difference! 100% of your gifts to the Christmas Offering support CCIW.



"Together Making Disciples of Christ"



CCVP Christmas Past

We are coming up to our first celebration of Christ's birth as a "new" church in which we are renters with plans to recreate ourselves in the coming months. This reminded me of our first Christmas Eve celebration back in 1957. Our new Pastor, Rev. Harvey Lord and his lovely wife, May, both had exciting plans on the horizon for those looking for a new church home in Villa Park. Twenty-two Disciples belonging to other churches in Chicago and the western suburbs met in the basement of Ray and Sally Saatkamp for several weeks. Word got around and by the time they decided they would have to find a new place to worship in, several people were ready to attend. The Masonic temple offered their building for Sunday mornings only. A large room to be used as a sanctuary and small rooms for Sunday School filled our immediate needs. My family and I attended the second Sunday they were there and continued to do so through the years. Harvey wanted our first Christmas Eve service to begin at 11pm, I believe, and then the invitation to join would begin at midnight. Some of the men built a large tub, very heavy, which took several of them to carry it in for baptisms. Then they had to fill it with water. I do not know how they managed that, or later emptied it. Hmm... Well over a hundred people joined either by signing a list if previously baptized elsewhere, or being baptized for the first time. Open charter membership continued until the following Easter when the Charter was officially closed. As I recall there were around 224 who were charter members. The rented space for Sundays was filled up rapidly. Excitement permeated as we all contemplated what would come next. Harvey was a go-getter, full of impossible dreams that only happened by his dogged determination, and May's work with the women made for a very busy, and joyful process of creating the Christian Church of Villa Park. We are about the same number now as those who created a new church then. Isn't that interesting?

Jane Reid