

# Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park  
1336 S. Villa Avenue  
Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 833-7262

E-mail: [ccvp1336@yahoo.com](mailto:ccvp1336@yahoo.com)

Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, October 10, 2023

## Pastor's Letter

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Has it been three months already? It seems like just yesterday that you welcomed me into our community! As I reflect on this time we have together, I recall this quote from our Ministries web page, *“Living a life of Christian witness by serving others is an essential part of our community life together.”* Oh, how I have loved our joint ministry!

The weekly Disciples Food Pantry has given me the opportunity to work with some wonderful volunteers, including Joan Fuller and Chuck Bohl. Joan is the dedicated and talented director of this program who works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure we have plenty of meat, produce, and staples each week to feed the 50-60 families who start lining up an hour and a half before we open each week. Chuck greets each person, usually by name, and welcomes them in our presence. He is a true ambassador for CCVP as well as Jesus! As I have come to know our “regulars,” opportunities to listen, pray and build community abound each week. We are praying for one this week who is facing the removal of parts of his leg due to diabetes and another who has lost a job due to health and has to choose between paying the rent and eating, depending on us to provide their daily bread. Every week we feed bodies and sustain souls. Thank you for your prayers and support of this vital ministry and to all the volunteers who are engaged every week in serving our community.

September 16, I had the privilege to participate in the ninth annual Love Your Neighbor Day, involving at least eight churches and over one hundred volunteers. Doris and Dan Carter started this to give opportunity to those who didn't have a chance to do a mission trip for a week and the results are impressive. Several members and friends of the Christian Church of Villa Park provided much needed (and appreciated) service to homeowners in our area that day, while also demonstrating God's love in spirit (see the LYND article for all the volunteers). I was truly renewed by your community presence that day as I visited with many of those involved and those we served.

Finally, this last week, I had the honor to walk with Dan, Doris, Betty, Raja, and our newest friend Michele, in the annual CROP walk to benefit those who are hungry in our local and larger community. Our CCVP team raised over \$900 thus far, with the local walk totaling at least \$20,000. Thank you again for your contributions. It's not too late to participate, just send us a check for CROP walk!

The amazing thing about all of these labors of love is that they were done by volunteers with no contribution from our General Budget. You truly are a giving community! We are “Living a life of Christian witness by serving others.” God be praised!

The holiday season is coming! Advent begins December 1 with the first Sunday of Advent on December 3. We can worship in person, online, and afar. I am mindful that some of you are not present in person each week, but I discern your presence as circumstances dictate. We are still a community, however, so keep us in your prayers, let me know when you need someone to listen to you, pray with you, sit with you. That also is part of being “community.” Together, we are all part of God's kingdom, and you are loved! Praise the Lord!

*Pastor Dave*

## Pastor Dave's Contact Information (He's on vacation through October 15!)

Street address: 5326 West Main Street, Monee, IL (to get to the porch!)

Mailing address: PO Box 342, Monee, IL 60449

Email: [ccvppastor@yahoo.com](mailto:ccvppastor@yahoo.com)

Phone: 708-288-4936 (cell)

### Love Your Neighbor Day 2023

The 9th annual Love Your Neighbor Day 2022 on September 16, 2023 was a success thanks to the support, prayer and participation of CCVP and other churches in Lombard and Villa Park. Over 125 volunteers came out for LYND 2023 and we were able to help 24 homeowners in the Lombard/Villa Park area. Check out our Love Your Neighbor Day or the church's Facebook page to see photos from the day.



The work that was done this year included painting (fence, garage, deck, doors), installation of some windows and 3 storm doors, building handrails at 2 houses so seniors could get out of their homes more safely, installing new siding, making repairs to a shed and a fence, and replacing support posts. This was in addition to all of the yard clean up and weeding and trimming of bushes and trees (we filled over 300 yard bags and bundled lots of limbs). We left every home in better shape than when we arrived.

However, 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. The volunteers shared God's love not only by their work, but also by listening and talking with the homeowners. Many groups shared lunch with their homeowners. Our Pastor Dave made it to 15 of our worksites to visit with the homeowners and the volunteers, which was an added blessing this 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, Kuppies Bakery, McDonald's in Villa Park, and Lilac Bakery in Lombard (thanks to the efforts of Ruth Martin in soliciting these contributions!). Lakeshore Recycling donated Villa Park yard waste stickers, the Village of Lombard donated the use of a dumpster, and Waste Management picked up yard waste for our Lombard homeowners for free. Once again, we received a \$2,000 grant from the Village of Villa Park.

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 with me, to Betty Prorak and Alissa and Justin Verson who served as team leaders, to volunteers, Minni Philip, Raja Philip, John Martin, and Joan Fuller, and to Heidi for mapping out the lunch delivery routes. Ruth Martin's brother Carl Craft joined in the work, too! We will be deciding on the date for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Love Your Neighbor Day at our LYND wrap up meeting this week.

### Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible study meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September 10 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

## Looking Ahead...

- October 9-October 15 – Pastor Dave Holston is on vacation. Please contact Betty Prorak at 847-977-0797 or [BLProrak@yahoo.com](mailto:BLProrak@yahoo.com) with any concerns until Pastor Dave returns.
- Wednesday, October 11, 7:00pm – 2023 Love Your Neighbor Day Committee wrap up meeting
- Sunday, October 15, 10:30am – Rev. Donna Freeman will be our guest preacher
- Wednesday October 18, 7:00pm – Stewardship Council meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, November 5 – Daylight Saving Time ends. Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night, November 4.
- Thursday, November 23 – Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot in Elmhurst (see last page of this Foresight)
- Sunday, November 26 – Rev. Rick Hamilton, Interim Regional Minister (formerly pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove), will visit us and preach during worship. Meal to follow worship.
- Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent (Advent begins on December 1 this year.)
- Sunday, December 24 – 9:30am, regular Sunday worship service.  
– 7:00pm, Christmas Eve service.



We walked! Dan Carter, Doris Carter, Michele Grayson, Dave Holston, Raja Philip and Betty Prorak took part in the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk on the sunny, warm afternoon of October 1. The team has raised \$965 thus far and the total from our local walk has topped \$20,000. Donations will continue to be accepted online at any time. If you would like to donate with a check to the church, please send your donation to the Christian Church of Villa Park with “CROP Walk” in the memo. Thank you to all who donated!

### Disciples Food Pantry

July Stats:  
178 Households served  
651 People served

August Stats (5 Wednesdays):  
281 Households served  
1055 People served

September Stats:  
199 Households served  
787 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 January 9, 2024 with a news deadline of 11am on January 8. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at [BLProrak@yahoo.com](mailto:BLProrak@yahoo.com) or mail it to the church.

## We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- that Christi Holston (Pastor Dave's wife) is doing very well now after her knee surgery in July and infection in that knee in August.
- that Randy Reid has brought Jane (his mother) to worship several times recently so she could participate in person instead of via Facebook. Son Doug brought Jane at the end of July.
- with Mr. O from the Pantry whose son had a heart attack in July, but miraculously woke on his own from an induced coma. He is doing very well now.
- that Pastor Dave's brother Bruce has recovered from a heart attack he had on August 12.
- for Haley, Daniela, Sofia, and Melina helping with sound effects during the sermon on August 13.
- that Sofia Felix was recognized as her softball team's MVP.
- for the disaster recovery work that Dan and Doris Carter did with a team from First church of Lombard in Mayfield, Kentucky in August.
- that Tina Amodeo and her parents returned safely from their 6-week road trip across the southwest and southern U.S. visiting family.
- with the Carter, Verson, and Philip families who enjoyed time in London and Paris late August/early September.
- with Ruth Martin whose relative Bill Hopkins celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 1.
- for procedures that have brought relief to Dan Carter from kidney stones.
- for the medical test results that showed no problems with Tina Amodeo's kidneys or liver.
- for our pianist Mickey O'Brien sharing his accordion skills with us in worship on two recent Sundays.

## Please Pray for...



- Paula, a friend of Doris Carter from college, who passed away unexpectedly in early July. Doris asks for prayers for Paula's family as they grieve.
- John Martin as doctors continue follow up and adjustments from John's surgery in April.
- Ruth Martin
- the health of Teresa Shoff (John Martin's sister). She recently fell and broke bones in her leg.
- Carl Kagebein. The extended Kagebein family will observe the one-year anniversary of Joan's passing on October 15.
- Jerry and Carol Robbins who are both in long-term care at the Springs of Monarch Landing.
- Joan Fuller's sister Gloria's health.
- Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane Quint Evans. Kathy had a stroke in June. Diane is now her mom's caregiver. (Diane is Joan Fuller's good friend.)
- Jayne Hochstetler who is still undergoing treatments for cancer. She says, "I am very tired all the time, but don't have any pain. I am still having immunotherapy every 3 weeks but have no side effects from them. My last CT scan showed that the tumor had shrunk a little. My doctor feels the infusions are doing their job and was pleased with the results. I feel very blessed!" Jayne sends her thanks to those who have been praying for her.
- Pastor Dave's niece Samantha. Her fiancé died on August 12. She was pregnant with twins at the time. At their birth in September, her daughter was fine, but her son was stillborn.
- Alana, who has cancer. (see Joan Fuller's Facebook post about a GoFundMe for Alana.)
- Tina Amodeo's friend Melissa who has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- a friend of Tina who lives in India and that friend's family.
- Minni Philip who is painfully waiting for foot surgery later this month.
- Lisa H. (cousin of Tina). Her husband Tony died from cancer Sunday morning.
- our church and Pastor Dave as we move forward together in ministry.

## September 30, 2023 Financial Summary

|                          | July       | August     | September  | Year-to-date |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Income for budget items: | \$6,399.31 | \$5,347.74 | \$5,613.98 | \$58,568.66  |
| Budgeted expenses:       | \$7,218.00 | \$7,867.85 | \$7,658.48 | \$65,103.67  |

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Our expenses have increased since June 1 with a monthly space-sharing payment to New Life Bible Chapel of \$1,763 instead of the \$363 we paid for the first two years of our space-sharing agreement.

For the fourth quarter of this year, we will make those payments from our capital fund to avoid having to withdraw money from our Christian Church Foundation account.

### Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on November 5. (Another order will be placed on January 7.) 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 at the beginning of December. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by December 3 for them to be delivered on December 10. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

### November, December, January Celebrations

November 2 John Martin  
 7 Roger Mendoza  
 9 Julian Mendoza  
 11 Ken Newton  
 15 Steve Prorak  
 17 Melancthon Philip  
 24 Tina Amodeo



December 4 Daniela Felix  
 5 Betty Prorak  
 8 Nancy Mendoza  
 January 6 Vivian Mendoza  
 8 Justin Verson

November 19 Heidi Gomez & José Felix  
 26 Carol & Jerry Robbins

December 9 Joan & John Fuller  
 28 Minni & Raja Philip

January 3 Diane & Chuck Bohl  
 9 Doris & Dan Carter



### An Untitled Poem from Tina

From the East to the West Coast, I fought.  
 Despite wanting what I secretly sought.  
 Desiring to boldly study between the carved covers.  
 Yet staying safe like one that hovers.

But here I am sharing words loudly found.  
 That lasso my soul to whom has been crowned.  
 Reminding me that being alone is a choice  
 And it's my will of how I use my humbled voice.

I am already black listed by self and some.  
 It would be easier to drink a bottle of rum.  
 Yet the spiritual cravings are peaked by curiosity  
 That is, also, overflowing with silent animosity.

Tender Sender/T.M.A.

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot**  
**A 5K Fun Run on Thanksgiving Morning, November 23**

To learn more, register to run, or make a donation, go to <https://dangibbonsturkeytrot.org/>

