

# Foresight

Looking to the Future

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**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

What does it mean to be community? To have relationship? It seems like all our definitions have been challenged, stretched, and upended in the last year and a half while, at the same time, we have also been reminded of the importance of all the traditional ways we have come together.

In the last year I have celebrated birthdays and holidays with family from our homes across the country and have given thanks when we have finally been able to hug one another again. I have proudly watched my child learn with teachers and classmates through Zoom and I smiled at their joy in finally being able to play together. I have appreciated the technology that allows me to lead worship from home and given praise when I could see your faces before me.

We are, as a state and country, opening up, trying to get back to “normal”. But we are still faced with constant reminders that things have changed, we are not what we were before, and we can’t afford to pretend otherwise. The pandemic is not over, those who are not yet vaccinated face the risk of an even more contagious version of the virus we have been watching for so long. So, we continue to mask, to refrain from singing, to offer virtual options for gathering to show our love and care for one another. And in doing so we find opportunities we never imagined. We discover relationship we couldn’t have anticipated.

We are joined in worship and study by those who, for many reasons, are not able to join us in person. We can learn with others without traveling. Events that have, in the past, been too expensive and time consuming for many to attend, are now available to all. Still, we wonder, are we really creating community? How can we know each other deeply if we can’t sit beside one another?

Real relationship and community can be developed in many ways across platforms. There’s not just one way to do it. Relationship means trust and vulnerability, spaces where we feel like we can be our whole selves. Those develop in different ways and at different speeds in different environments. As a people used to gathering regularly, in person, around literal and metaphorical tables with those we’ve known for years, how can we stretch our ideas and traditions as we think about what community means, what it means to fully include others?

*Laura*

## Worship

New Worship Time in September

Worship will begin at 10:30 am starting on Sunday, September 5, 2021.

Sunday School

Sunday School restarts at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 5. All ages are invited to gather together to hear the story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

## 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.

## Love Your Neighbor Day 2021 Will Be Held on September 18, 2021



The Christian Church of Villa Park and other area churches will be working together again this year to hold the 7th annual Love Your Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 18, 2021 (rain date September 25, 2021). On Love Your Neighbor Day 2020 over 90 volunteers provided assistance to 21 homeowners.

Applications are now being accepted from homeowners in the Villa Park/Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with work around their homes because of financial or physical limitations and who could benefit from a group of people volunteering at their home for a day. Again this year, all work will be in the yard or on the exterior in the home to continue safety precautions. The work will be done by small groups of volunteers. If you or someone you know could use help from your neighbors, you are encouraged to apply now. Applications and more information can be obtained on the church website at [www.ccvponline.net](http://www.ccvponline.net), by sending an e-mail to [loveyourneighbor15@yahoo.com](mailto:loveyourneighbor15@yahoo.com), or by contacting Doris Carter to have an application mailed to you. The deadline for submitting homeowner applications is August 20, 2021.

It is not too early to sign-up to be a volunteer for LYND 2021 to support this important ministry of our church. Volunteers have the option of signing up either as individuals to be assigned to a team or as a small group of people who want to work together. You can also obtain volunteer sign-up sheets on the church website, by e-mailing the above address or contacting Doris Carter. The deadline for submitting volunteer sign-up sheets is September 4, 2021. We hope you can volunteer and encourage family or friends to join you.

## CROP Walk on Sunday, October 3



Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 3, 2021, 1-3pm

Pending any changes in pandemic restrictions, we plan to walk together in person Sunday, October 3. The parking lot of First Church of Lombard at 220 S. Main Street will be our starting and finishing point. The 3-mile route will remain similar to previous years along the Prairie Path and returning on the Great Western Trail. We will stagger start times for each team between 1 and 1:30pm to avoid too many people in one spot. And we will encourage anyone that wishes to do their own walk in their neighborhood.

75% of funds raised will benefit Church World Service programs in the Dominican Republic, providing animals and resources to enable families to start a small business and work towards becoming self-sufficient.

25% of funds raised will benefit local food pantries - including the Disciples Food Pantry - with access to food through Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Christian Church of Villa Park has our page setup on the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk website. We need walkers! Here is the link to register as a walker and/or make a donation:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/christian-church-of-villa-park>

Questions? Contact Betty Prorak.

## Disciples Food Pantry

July Stats:

91 Households served

318 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...



- *The joy of spending time with family, kids, grandchildren.*
- *What a joy it was to have Jerrienne Isely as guest preacher.*
- *For the opportunity to learn something new and serve in different ways.*

## Please Pray for...



- *Tina Amodeo*
- *We pray for Officer French and her partner and their families.*

## 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 Great Lakes Scrip gift card order will be due on September 5. 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](http://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 October. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by October 3 for them to be delivered by October 10. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

## September Celebrations



- 3 Doris Carter
- 13 Raja Philip
- 18 James Schultz

## Food for Thought...

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

– 1 Peter 4:8

Lord, may we always seek to build community. Let us walk humbly in grace and love as we walk beside one another. – *Sojourners*