

Foresight

Looking to the Future

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



Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Even as leaves begin changing color and plants and animals begin preparing for winter hibernation, I find fall to be a season of beginnings, of possibilities. A new school year has started; new activities begin. The church returns to more activity after resting over the summer. There are so many new things to do and learn. What will the coming months bring us?

Stepping into these possibilities and new opportunities often leads us to discover things we never knew about ourselves, our world, our community. Will we discover skills and gifts we never knew we had? Will we encounter new ways to use our skills and gifts? Will we be surprised by the ways our gifts and knowledge come together with the gifts and knowledge of others, taking us places we couldn't have imagined before? All this is possible when we step into life as an adventure, with joy and openness to all the possibilities before us.

We are beginning to envision what is ahead for this congregation, we're putting together a budget that dreams of what will be as well as what is. We're delving more deeply into what our church is being called to in this next chapter of our story. What gifts will rise up as we make more space for them? What oceans of opportunity will we dip our toes into, then discover that we're ready to dive in and swim?

As we explore, pray, and discern together, we will not only discover new gifts but grow and strengthen those we already know about. We will continue to make space for all to share their gifts. Everyone has something important to add to our community and we are all enriched by experiencing one another's gifts and helping each other to grow in them.

What are we being called into? What possibilities are ahead? Look around at one another. What do you see? Where is God calling us?

Laura

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.

All Saint's Day Service

We will lift up, in remembrance, loved ones who have died during our service on October 31. If you would like to add someone please email Pastor Laura, ccvppastor@yahoo.com, a name and photo by October 25.



Coffee Break for Social Justice
Everyone is invited.

ComeUnity is a group dedicated to developing discourses to nurture genuine relationships among racial, ethnic & religious backgrounds by recognizing biases in ourselves & in our communities. We are working together to further a more equitable society through education, discussion, guided conversations, social interactions, & community projects. Members & participants come from various congregations, organizations & walks of life & all are dedicated to our mission.

If you are DONE with the shaming/blaming in today's cancel culture join us for Thursday's discussion video that features Dr. Loretta J. Ross (Smith College) who will share her "call in" practice for inviting others into a conversation to address our biases.

RSVP or for more info please email us & we'll send a zoom link
ComeUnity.SocialJustice@gmail.com

*We hope to see you there! The 2nd Thursday every month. **October 14** on zoom Room opens at 6:45pm*

Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk



We walked! As we covered the 3 miles of the trail, it only rained lightly on us for about 20 minutes, and our team raised \$1,625 to help stop hunger. Our walkers were Heidi, Jose, Haley, Dani, Sofi, and Melina Felix, Laura, Joshua, and Amelia Reed, Alissa, Justin, and Freya Verson, Tina Amodeo, Doris Carter, and Betty Prorak. There was a total of 80 walkers on the Great Prairie Trail CROP Walk and at least \$18,000 collected in donations. Our Pantry will be among the local groups that will receive funds from our efforts.

You can still make a donation through the end of the month at:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/christian-church-of-villa-park>

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.

September 30, 2021 Financial Summary

	July	August	September	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$6,561.95	\$7,267.00	\$6,854.70	\$80,053.83
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,125.02	\$5,636.93	\$7,238.95	\$78,281.08

Thank you for your faithful giving!

7th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day



The 7th annual Love Your Neighbor Day 2021 on September 18, 2021 was a success thanks to your participation, support and prayers and the support and participation of 9 other churches in Lombard and Villa Park, including our space sharing partner, New Life Bible Chapel.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, our neighbors continue to be in need of help and people in our churches and the community continue to want to spend a day helping their neighbors. We continued to follow safety measures to protect our homeowners and volunteers by limiting the work that was done to yard work and work on the exterior of the homes. This year 141 volunteers came out for LYND and we were able to help 28 homeowners in the Lombard/Villa Park area. This is the largest number of volunteers since we started LYND in 2015 and the most homeowners we have been able to help since 2015.

The work we got done included installing railings for front steps, making repairs to a shed, garage, fence, doors and windows, exterior painting, gutter cleaning, power washing, and lots of yard clean up and weeding and trimming of bushes and trees (we filled over 400 yard-bags and bundled lots of limbs). We left every home in better shape than when we arrived. In addition to the work, we made an effort to talk with the homeowners and to let them know that others care about them.

The homeowners who were helped were very appreciative and the volunteers came away with a great deal of satisfaction from having helped their neighbor. Check out our Love Your Neighbor Day Facebook page to see photos from the day (some photos are attached at the end of this Foresight).

We were again able to cover the cost of materials and supplies needed for doing the needed work for our homeowners with donations of money. No homeowner was asked to cover the cost of these materials and supplies. 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, GFS and Jewel in Villa Park, and Lilac Bakery in Lombard (and thanks to the efforts of Ruth Martin in soliciting these contributions). We just recently received another grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Village of Villa Park for Love Your Neighbor Day.

Love Your Neighbor Day continues to be a vital ministry for CCVP and provides a means for sharing God's love in the community and a positive presence in our community, even in the midst of a pandemic. Thanks for to the following CCVP members who participated this year: Dan Carter, Ruth Martin, John Martin, Josh Reed, Laura Reed, Betty Prorak, Joan Fuller, Tina Amadeo, and Minni Philip.

Doris Carter

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- for birthdays and anniversaries
- for time with family and friends
- for lost teeth 😊
- with the Felix family on the adoption and making official of Daniela and Sofia as the children of Jose.
- with Dennis Bohl (Chuck's son) and family who are all back to normal after contracting COVID.

Please Pray for...



- Ruth Martin, who took a spill on October 2. No bones are broken, but she is pretty banged up, especially one eye and a knee.
- Minni Philip.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- Tina Amodeo.
- Ana Prorak, Betty and Steve's granddaughter, who tested positive for COVID last Thursday. Her symptoms have been mild, but we pray for Ana to recover quickly and that the rest of her family will stay healthy.

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 November 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 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 December. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by December 5 for them to be delivered by December 12. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

November Celebrations

Disciples Food Pantry

September Stats:

142 Households served

514 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.



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



- 19 Heidi Gomez &
Jose Felix
- 26 Carol & Jerry Robbins

The Premonition, a pandemic story, by Michael Lewis – Reviewed by Jane Reid

In 2005 President Bush read a book on pandemics. He was so angry when he read it that he formed a commission to investigate just what, how, when, and why a pandemic exists and how you would know one had begun.

Eventually, a small group of brilliant medical people that were referred to as the Wolverines was formed to answer his questions. They were scientists of the highest caliber, and did not look for symptoms, and how to deal with them only, they wanted to know why they start in the first place. What were the clues that one had started and where it began, and what would be the first thing our country should do if one was discovered? As they put together some ideas, they included wearing masks and social distancing. It was interesting that they wondered if anyone would be willing to do that. Another concern was what if children were susceptible? If going to school was wise, and if so, transporting students in crowded buses would be an extremely dangerous activity. All the areas of concern we now have, they were investigating and when the pandemic began their knowledge and suggestions were not heeded by the government or CDC when we were still free of the virus and could have been much better prepared. Many lives could have been saved.

This book is well written, not with judgement or anger, although some writers could have taken this tactic, but simply wanting the public to be aware of the years of hard work and difficulties the Wolverines willingly faced. Our country, both Federal and some states, as well as the CDC were not cooperative. Many lives could have been saved had they listened before COVID hit our shores. We have a lot to learn about ourselves and this book points it out superbly.

Hello God

Hello God
Do you remember me?
I once pretended to be a monkey, swinging from a tree.
Do You remember that Lord?
I even once tried to play a fluted song's chord.
Did You know that I really wanted to, instead, play the drums?
I used to bang on pots, pans, tables until all I heard were ringing hums.
But I was told that only boys could play with those sticks.
Did You know that I used to make candles and struggled to place those wicks?
But I got better with practice as I enjoyed watching the flame flicker and dance.
I was mesmerized as my pupils swayed and my soul would prance.
Did You ever realize that I once challenged my fear of heights?
I learned that I cannot fly, but that I could use that fear to win all the fights.
Do You know, my Comforter, that I sometimes cry without getting my cheeks wet?
I've accepted that not all want to see beyond their winning bet.
Will You be with me as I embark on this possible winding path?
Because sometimes the shadows seem greater than any problem I've solved in Math.
Dear God, please don't forget me despite those moments when I don't think of You.
"Sweet Child, will you remember that I have never left you even when your will was all that you thought you knew?"

Tender Sender/Tina Marie A.

A Family Blessing

Lord of all,
Bless our families, be they formed by blood or by circumstance. Make them holy.
May we find you in our relationships, in our marriages, in our families, in our households, in our communities, in our global humanity.
May we look across all that divides us and see family, and embrace as a family does. and love as a family ought to.
For where there are two or more gathered in your name, there you are. Amen

Some Photos from Love Your Neighbor Day 2021



