

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

Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, January 11, 2022



Welcome to 2022! A new year, a chance for new things. And yet...we still face so many issues that seem intractable. It's a new year, but our problems haven't changed. The "new" things we are doing feel like old responses.

We're starting worship this year in the new/old way of gathering online only because of a combination of weather and health concerns. It feels like a step backward, especially when we all hoped that things would be back to "normal" months and months ago. And yet...how much has changed in the last year, in the last two years.

I ended my 2020 new year column in this way:

"I don't know what is next and I'm not sure how everything will turn out. There are a few milestones before me, before us, that will almost certainly be encountered in the coming year, but I don't know what they'll look like, I don't know how I'll accept what comes. What I do know is that God is with me, with us. God is guiding our questions and our search for answers. Always, God is with us."

How right and wrong I was. I was right that I had no idea what was coming. I certainly wasn't expecting a pandemic to disrupt our lives 2 months later and to continue to do so 2 years on. If we hit any of those milestones I was thinking of they were very different markers than I could have anticipated. And yet...the truth through all this is that that "always, God is with us." Through everything, God is with us. That is God's promise, God's covenant with us.

Our problems may not seem to have changed, but we have. We have strengths that have grown and imaginations that have widened. We have creativity that has yet to reach its fullness and dreams that are becoming more detailed. As we approach the rocky places in our lives as individuals and community, we bring new insight from all we have experienced and learned. We respond in new ways.

Over the last two years, I think we have re-learned the importance of community. The importance of having community and the recognition that nothing we do is separate from those around us have infused our lives. We are together and it is together that we live and face all that comes, all that we are called into. It is together that we thrive as we respond in new ways to God's promises, living out the faith that shapes us with each and every breath, the grace that reaches out to us wherever we are.

Laura

Thursday Gatherings – Last One This Week

This Thursday at 7:30pm you can join others from CCVP online or by phone through a Zoom meeting to chat and/or pray. Call 1-312-626-6799. The meeting ID is 347 464 975 with password 186082. After January 13, there will be a break until Lent for Thursday evening Zoom gatherings. During Lent, beginning on March 3, there will be a study/prayer meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

Sunday Morning Schedule

(Unless the weather or COVID prevents gathering)

Sunday School starts at 9:00 a.m. 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 a.m. in person and on Facebook Live

Updated Directory in the Works

Betty Prorak will soon publish an updated directory for CCVP. If you have changes in address, phone, or email, or have a birthday or anniversary that has been missing from the directory, please contact Betty at 847-977-0797 or BLProrak@yahoo.com by January 20. If you do not have a copy of CCVP's directory and would like one, let Betty know.

Foresight to Be Published Quarterly

In an effort to save time and other resources, the CCVP newsletter the Foresight is shifting from its monthly timing to quarterly. The next issue will come out on April 12, with a news deadline of 11am on April 11. Feedback? Contact Betty Prorak and/or Laura Reed.

Disciples Food Pantry

December Stats:

140 Households served

539 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.

December 31, 2021 Financial Summary

| | December | Year-to-date |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Income for budget items: | \$6,536.80 | \$100,915.68 |
| Budgeted expenses: | \$6,171.57 | \$97,263.26 |

Thank you for your faithful giving!

News from Jim and Anne Stipanowich

Excerpts from Jim and Anne's Christmas letter:

The best news of 2021 is that we have a new granddaughter! Lucy Adelina was born on August 15 (to Jima and Anne's daughter Amy). Lucy adores her big brothers CJ (now a teenager in 8th grade) and Levi (2 ½ years old).

Jim still works – from home since March 2020 – for the Tax Department at Hollister Incorporated.

Anne cares for Levi and Lucy while Amy and her husband are at work and CJ is at school.

The full letter is available for reading in our worship space.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- for the years that Eric Hays shared his musical talents with us in worship. We continue to give thanks as he has given us permission to use music he recorded previously in our recent online only services.
- for the time families spent together over the holidays.
- for the beautiful worship service held in the big sanctuary on Christmas Eve.
- for Amanda Prorak's parents' – Judy and Dave Graanstra – recovery from COVID.
- for Jane Reid's Christmas. She wrote, "Doug Reid visited from Texas. Visited a couple of places in the area that are fun. My presents arrived for the boys two days before we celebrated! Yeah! Good talk with Chris in Texas. All is well there, and last but not least, my great granddaughter, Olivia, sent a genuine handcrafted bracelet to me as my gift from her. She makes and sells them since 6th grade and has quite a business going for someone so young."
- for children playing in the snow. Ana Prorak got to make her first snowman before she returned to California.
- for the technology that allows many of us to worship together from different places, especially when the weather or COVID prevents us from gathering in our worship space.

Please Pray for...



- Tina Amodeo's brother Sam, who needs a kidney.
- Ruth Martin.
- Minni Philip.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- The family of Hope Davis. Hope passed away on the night of January 9. She was our first Mission Trip cook, presiding over "Hope's Café" in Louisiana. As her daughter Jennifer Burney commented, "Life with Mom was never boring."
- Cleo – the former cleaning lady for CCVP and a current Pantry volunteer – had a cancerous mass removed in December and underwent her first round of chemo. She is home, doing well, and would appreciate prayers.
- The family of Alfonso Pena Flores, Heidi Gomez's cousin. Alfonso died in a car accident of Christmas Eve.
- The many people ill right now.
- The doctors, nurses, and other service individuals who are once more overwhelmed by the pandemic.

Looking Ahead...

- Worship will be online only again on Sunday, January 16 due to health concerns. Check with Betty Prorak or Laura Reed after January 16 if you do not receive an email about worship plans for January 23.
- The Stewardship Council will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Wednesday, January 26.
- CCVP 20/20 will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Sunday, January 30.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Monday, February 7.
- The Worship committee will meet via Zoom at 1:30pm on Friday, February 11.
- The Elders will meet at 7:00pm on Sunday, February 20.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Ashes may be received that morning in the church parking lot. A worship service will be held in the evening at 7:00pm.
- A study and prayer time will be held through Lent via Zoom beginning on Thursday, March 3 at 7:00pm.

February, March, and April Celebrations



February 5 Ariana Mendoza
 6 Heidi Gomez
 8 Ruth Martin
 16 Jayne Hochstetler

March 1 Erica Schultz
 4 Freya Verson
 5 Amy Slinkman
 12 Sharon Philip
 22 Minni Philip
 April 5 Diana Robbins
 6 Laura Reed
 18 Amelia Reed
 20 Dan Carter



April 14 Betty & Steve Prorak
 29 Amy & Ed Slinkman

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 orders for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of February and April. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by February 6 and April 3 for them to be delivered by February 13 and April 10. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.



ShopWithScrip gift card orders will be due on March 6. 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.

Week of Compassion Special Offering – February 20 and 27



And now these
 three remain: faith,
 hope and love.
 But the greatest
 of these is love.

— 1 Cor. 13:13

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives.

When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities. In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives.

Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains.

More information is available at www.weekofcompassion.org. Donations may also be made there.