

# Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park  
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Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, April 9, 2024

## Pastor's Letter

“Peace Be with You.” These were the first words Jesus spoke to the disciples after he had risen from the dead, according to the gospels of Luke and John. I imagine they felt anything but peaceful at that moment!

Yet God sent Jesus on a peaceful mission to us, and Jesus gave his life without raising a hand to stop those who were crucifying him. The disciples deserted Jesus, they were behind closed doors when he appeared to them and twice said. “Peace be

with you.” Often in the scriptures, we are encouraged to pass God’s peace on to each other. I have often wondered what that means (future sermon!).

You have blessed me the last 9 months in so many ways. I have been in some of your homes and broken bread with you. I have eaten meals with you in public places, worshipped with you, sat in a hospital waiting room with you and your family, worked in our weekly food pantry side by side, participated in a 5K walk, joined you in a Love Your Neighbor Day (LYND), and last week was blessed to officiate in the baptism of Sofia Felix, as she confessed her faith in Jesus. Thank you! God is still speaking to the Christian Church of Villa Park!

In a couple of weeks, some members of the church will gather at Tower Hill, Michigan for a 24-hour retreat, we are calling “*24 Hours in the Wilderness*,” as we continue the process of discerning how we can carry out the mission Jesus charged us with, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit...*” in Matthew 28:19. As we go, we earnestly solicit your prayers. Let us join together to seek God’s will for our ministry.

As we face the uncertainty of our future, as well as that of the church, we can be certain of the promise of Matthew 28: 20, “*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” As long as we stay in the word of God, stay in prayer and communion with Jesus, and work toward his mission of making disciples, the rest is just details. Details that God already knows. We just need to be faithful in our service and devotion to our Lord, and seek his will.

So, I end this with “Peace Be with You.” Thank you for your prayers, your attendance and participation in the life of the church. You may attend in person, online, or participate by helping with the Disciples Food Pantry, LYND, through your tithes and offerings, your prayers, or other ways, but together we are the Christian Church of Villa Park, and Jesus is the head of our church.

Peace Be with You!

*Pastor Dave*

## Thank You, Pray-ers!

Thank you to all who participated in the Good Friday Prayer Vigil: Tina Amodeo, Chuck Bohl, Dan Carter, Haley Felix, Daniella Felix, Sofia Felix, Heidi Gomez, Jayne Hochstetler, Dave Holston, John Martin, Ken Newton, Raja Philip, Betty Prorak, Jane Reid, and Sue Severino.



## Support Needed for Costa Rica Mission Trip

In July, Dan and I and Pastor David and his wife Christi will be going on a mission trip to Costa Rica. We will be joining a mission team from the First Church of Lombard. The team will be building two homes in one week for two families in dire need of a safe, dry and secure home. The host is Costa Rica Mercy Homes Ministries which has built over 220 homes in Costa Rica in the past 15 years. Dan has been on 3 previous mission trips and Doris has been on 2 previous mission trips in Costa Rica with Mercy Homes Ministries. They have seen the great need for housing there.



While the mission team members each pay for all of their travel and living expenses, money needs to be raised for the materials and some local skilled labor for the two houses that we will be building. The cost for each home is \$8,000. The homes are very simple and small (about 400 square feet), but they provide a concrete floor, a roof that keeps rain out, windows and doors that close and can be locked, and a very modest indoor toilet and shower. The families who get these homes are living in shacks, with dirt floors, leaky roofs, no windows or doors and no indoor plumbing.



In addition to your prayer support, we hope that members of our congregation will be willing to provide financial support for the building of the two homes. Any contributions can be made to our church and designated for Costa Rica mission trip. CCVP will then write a check for the total contributions to the First Church of Lombard who will send it to Mercy Homes. To know in advance that we will have the monies to build two homes, we hope that donations can be made by June 1.

If you have any questions about the mission work and how your contributions will benefit families in Costa Rica, you can talk to Dan or me.

*Doris Carter*

## Concerts This Weekend

Ruth Martin is a member of Voices of Hope Community Chorus which is performing two concerts this weekend, "Great Songs from the Movies." As their website states, the chorus "presents a heartwarming concert that celebrates the power of music and honors breast cancer survivors and those touched by this disease." Saturday's concert will begin at 7:30pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Sunday's will be held at 4:00pm at Glenview Community Church in Glenview. For more information and/or to purchase tickets, go to: <https://voicesofhopec.com/upcoming-concerts/>

## Sunday Morning Schedule

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

## Foresight News Deadline

The next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on July 9, 2024 with a news deadline of 11am on July 8. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at [BLProrak@yahoo.com](mailto:BLProrak@yahoo.com) or mail it to the church.

## Looking Ahead....

- April 19-20: 24 Hours in the Wilderness Retreat at Tower Hill, Michigan
- Sunday, April 28: Guest preacher Rev. Cal Bloesch as Pastor Dave will be on vacation
- May 19: Pentecost Sunday
- June 12, 7:00pm: Stewardship Council meeting
- SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, September 21, 2024: Love Your Neighbor Day

**Disciples Food Pantry**

<p>January Stats (5 Wednesdays):          314 Households served          1196 People served</p>	<p>February Stats:          276 Households served          1045 People served</p>	<p>March Stats:          286 Households served          1092 People served</p>
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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...



- Heidi Gomez was diagnosed with chronic sinusitis back in January, but doesn't need surgery and is doing very well with medication.
- Pastor Elba Iris Nazario, who preached for us in January, is serving a church in Hastings, Nebraska.
- Nine members of the church will be attending a 24 Hours in the Wilderness retreat April 19-20. Alex Ruth from the Regional Office will be the facilitator.
- Dan Carter's brother Jim is doing very well after having heart issues and stent surgery in early February.
- Jayne Hochstetler's cancer continues to be in remission (since November 2023).
- Randy Reid brings his mother Jane to in-person worship about once a month.
- Minni Philip has recovered from her foot surgery. She and her family on a vacation.
- The Martins, Carters, Holstons, and Proraks have all enjoyed trips in the last couple of months.
- Tina Amodeo received new batteries for her powered wheelchair so she can get around on her own again.
- Tina's mother was hospitalized for a few days last month, but is home and doing much better.
- Last month Pastor Dave received official notice from the Region of his Commission to serve as Pastor of CCVP.
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!
- Sofia Felix was baptized on Easter morning, which was a wonderful start to a glorious day!
- There were 20 people present for worship on Easter.
- For our Regional Church, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin
- For the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## March 31, 2024 Financial Summary

	January	February	March	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$8,121.79	\$4,644.16	\$9,661.32	\$22,427.27
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,363.33	\$8,467.46	\$6,578.60	\$22,409.39

Thank you for your faithful giving!

## Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!)
- Those on the April 19-20 retreat to filled with and led by the Spirit
- Family and friends of Javier who passed away last month. He was a longtime friend of Heidi Gomez.
- Family and friends of Rev. Christopher Morton, Regional Minister in Nebraska, who passed away suddenly late last month.
- The healing/well-being of:
  - John Martin
  - Jerry Robbins
  - Ruth Martin
  - Carol Robbins
  - Michele Grayson
  - Diana Robbins (off and on vertigo)
  - Jayne Hochstetler
  - Heidi Gomez
  - Tina Amodeo
  - Pantry clients Kathryn, Joe, Larry, and Ken
  - Tina's mother (also named Tina)
  - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria
  - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff, who recently fell and broke her femur
  - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
  - Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120)
  - Becky Ziegler (Ruth & John Martin's daughter) who is experiencing complications with her pregnancy
- Our Regional Church, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin
- The General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Easter Special Offering to support them.

## Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on April 28. (Another order will be placed on June 30.) 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 on May 26 to be delivered on June 2. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group. Another order will be placed in early April.

## May, June, July Celebrations

May 15 Carol Robbins  
 15 Aurora Slinkman  
 16 Christi Holston  
 21 Chloe Slinkman  
 24 Chuck Bohl



June 1 Jane Reid  
 29 Joan Fuller  
 July 5 Dave Holston  
 5 Alissa Verson  
 14 Jose Felix  
 31 Patti Sommers



May 1 Ruth & John Martin  
 July 6 Christi & David Holston

## Pentecost Special Offering – May 12 and May 19



When it comes to church, we have a lot of negative tapes playing in our heads:

“Church is judgmental.”

“Church is hypocritical.”

“They think they’re better than everyone else.”

It’s time for restoration. Time to rewind the tape.

New Church Ministry is dedicated to fostering faithful communities marked by deep Christian spirituality and a passion for God’s love and justice.

Like our ancestors, we’re going back to the beginning, when new Christian communities gathered together and shared all they had, organizing everything around the Spirit’s dreams for their lives and their communities.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God is singing a new song: not a song of judgment, but of welcome and forgiveness; not a song of superiority, but of humility and grace; not a song of hoarding, but of sharing everything we have!

God’s movement for wholeness is already underway. Our job is to listen, and learn, and follow – supporting leaders and communities as the Spirit calls them into being, laying down a new song for a new generation.

Church as a place of generosity and justice. Church as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2024 Pentecost Offering, received in most congregations on Sunday, May 12, and Sunday, May 19, are divided equally between your regional ministry, which supports local new churches, and New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, and assists emerging leaders to be “movement initiators.”

**[Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering.](#)**