

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, April 8, 2025



Friends, as you read this, I am taking some time away with my best friend who happens to be my brother, Rich. We haven't had time together, just the two of us, in over ten years. The children's story this week was, "What Love Looks Like." At some point Afia said to her dad, "Love looks like you and me." After God, and my wife Christi, Rich IS what love looks like to me. He would and has done anything for me to protect me, care for me, and often, as brothers do, drive me crazy. We are certainly not similar in a lot of ways; he is an avid runner who runs virtually every day, even at 72, for example.

That is certainly not me.

What we have in common is our love for each other, knowing that even our differences cannot separate our commitment to be there for each other in a time of need. Jesus modeled that for us when he willingly went to the cross and gave himself for me, and for you. As we approach the final two weeks of the Lenten season, we celebrate the love God has for us, in that he sent his only son as a sacrifice for a lost world. The gospel of John in the third chapter, verse 16, says, "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**" I pray you have someone who loves like my brother and I do, but I am grateful that I have a Lord Jesus who loved me enough to give his life for me...and you.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor, to share time with you, study scripture together, and pray for each other as we travel this adventure together. You are a wonderful, loving, sharing, and serving congregation. Thank you also for allowing me time to rest and reflect. God be with you and see you soon!

Pastor Dave

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

Looking Ahead....

- Pastor Dave is on vacation through Friday, April 11. (Please contact Betty Prorak with pastoral needs.)
- Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday
- Sundays, April 13 and 20: Easter Special Offering
- Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday worship service
- Friday, April 18, Good Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm: Prayer Vigil; sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49AFAB29A4F8C52-good1#/> or contact Betty Prorak.
- Sunday, April 20: Easter
- Wednesday, May 14, 7:00pm: Stewardship Council meeting
- Sundays, June 1 and 8: Pentecost Special Offering
- Sunday, June 8: Pentecost
- Saturday, June 21, 9am-Noon: CCVP Leadership meeting
- SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, September 20, 2025: Love Your Neighbor Day

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- Dave is enjoying some vacation time with his brother Rich.
- A Bible study is being held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm through the end of May via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Dave or Tina Amodeo for the link.
- It was a joy to have Pastor Ruth Sutter join us as guest preacher on April 6.
- Our pianist Mickey O'Brien led a concert at Elmhurst University Sunday, April 6, with about 20 friends. They premiered the music that will be on his album "Mickey O'Brien and Friends." It was an amazing performance according to Betty Prorak. The songs will be released one at a time over the next several weeks.
- Our Regional church, now known as the Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin, is in the process of merging with the Michigan Regional Church. The new Region will be known as the Living Waters Region of the Christian Church. You can see the new logo and read more about the selection of that name at: <https://cciwdisciples.org/2025/04/and-the-real-honest-to-goodness-actual-winner-is/>
- From Jayne Hochstetler: I would like to thank [CCVP] for their prayers over the past 2-1/2 years that I have been battling stage 4 lung cancer. Thanks to my doctors, my Immunotherapy, prayers, and God's healing powers, as of now I am in remission and there are no viable cancer cells in my body! I have to follow up with CT scans every 3 months but no longer have to take treatments! God is good!
- Heidi attended the Ash Wednesday worship service and was in church on March 30.
- Haley, Dani, and Sofi Felix helped out at the Pantry on April 2 as they were on spring break from school.
- The Martins and Proraks enjoyed their recent vacations.
- Pastor Dave and wife Christi enjoyed visiting Dave's sister Jeannie in Arkansas mid-March. Jeannie has cancer and is in hospice.
- Pastor Dave has received his annual Certificate of Ministerial Commission from the Regional Ministry Committee to continue to serve as our Pastor (Betty Prorak informed him that he is/will be our pastor with or without this certificate).
- Former Pastor Laura Reed is now working as a nurse at Loyola Hospital in Maywood.
- Abby Kumar is in New Jersey being trained for a new job. She hopes to be placed in the Chicago area once the training is complete.
- Joan Fuller's knee surgery went well back in January. By mid-February, she had returned to in-person worship and was driving the Pantry van for food pickups.
- Chuck Pucci's foot has healed well enough that he has been able to attend worship for the past month.
- Many friends and family joined in the Celebration of Life service for Jerry Robbins on February 15.
- It's been well over a year since Ken Newton was labeled as "in hospice care." He is doing well!
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!

Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!)
- Dan Carter who got an infection in his hand from a splinter. He was admitted to the hospital to receive IV antibiotics and had surgery on Sunday, March 30. He came home the next day. He will continue to receive daily IV antibiotics through the end of this month.
- Rudy, who has an infection in his leg that could lead to amputation. (Acquaintance of Jane Reid)
- Roen Evans, grandson of Joan Fuller's best friends, who is waiting for surgery to repair a hole in his heart.
- Pastor Dave's sister Jeannie who has cancer and is in hospice.
- Pastor Dave's sister Cindee Gregorek whose partner of 30 years died suddenly in his sleep on February 3. Cindee has been quite sick since his death.
- Melancthon Philip's family as they mourn his passing.
- The extended family of Jerry Robbins – especially Carol, Diana, David, and Cindy - as they mourn his passing on January 21.
- Lucy Carter, Dan and Doris Carter's sister-in-law
- Sharon Philip as she works to complete requirements for a new job.
- Abby Kumar as she completes training for a new job.
- Tina Amodeo's friends Arpith, Sweetey, Karman and Samuel in India; Stacie in Africa who is suffering from malnutrition; Kilimbey and Sayune Laiza and their son; Justus Paul; Harrison who is struggling to build a church in Nigeria; Melissa who had shoulder surgery that did not go well; Amanda and Christine .
- The healing/well-being of:
 - Amy Crouch
 - John Martin (recently quite ill)
 - Ruth Martin (still coughing)
 - Michele Grayson
 - Tina Amodeo
 - Tina's mother (also named Tina)
 - Tina's father Sam
 - Minni Philip
 - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff
 - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
 - Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120)
 - Carol Robbins
 - Carl Kagebein
 - Pantry clients, especially Judy ("the bread lady") and Tom
 - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria, who is now in long-term nursing care
 - Heidi (anxiety)

Mission Trip to Kentucky with First Church of Lombard

Pastor Dave and his wife Christi are going with Dan and Doris Carter and members of the First Church of Lombard to Pike County, Kentucky the week of July 20 through 26 to help with flood recovery work. If you would like to support them financially, you can make an offering to the Christian Church of Villa Park noting that it is for the mission trip.

Disciples Food Pantry

The Pantry is open every Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.
Clients enter from Villa Avenue and receive food by the parking lot door.

March 31, 2025 Financial Summary

	January	February	March	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$9,067.68	\$4,534.22	\$7,495.49	\$21,097.39
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,118.43	\$7,787.56	\$7,500.67	\$22,406.66

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on May 4, 2025 (another order will be placed on June 29). 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 June 1 to be delivered on June 8. 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.

May, June, and 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 David Holston
 14 Jose Felix
 31 Patti Sommers



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

The Faithful Hand

In my quietest moments, my breath is lost
 As I feel the fear challenge the hope to be tossed,
 But I hear this whisper that surrounds my being.
 Before my eyes, I ponder what I am seeing.

Do I really see footprints glow in the light?
 Should I bury my head in that tearful fright?
 Do I dare step closer to verify what I perceive?
 Would I openly share of what I really do believe?

Yes, I shall say; Yes, I will speak.
 I will not shy from Whom I seek.
 For it is with my Lord, my God, that I do stand
 As I continue to reach for His, Jesus', faithful hand.

Tender Sender/T.M.A.

Foresight News Deadline

Due to a Prorak wilderness trip, the next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on July 1, 2025 with a news deadline of 11am on June 30, a week earlier than usual. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at BLProrak@yahoo.com or mail it to the church.



Wonder: The Inside Story

At the break of dawn, the women came to the tomb, expecting to find the lifeless body of Jesus. Inside the tomb, the story takes an unexpected turn and invites us inside the story. In the solemn silence where death was presumed to dwell, the disciples instead encounter awe — a wonder that stirs their hearts and shifts their understanding. The resurrection ignites in us that same wonder, the wonder that gripped the first witnesses of the empty tomb — the wonder of love that conquers death, of hope that defies despair, and of a risen Christ whose presence transforms the world forever.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 13 and 20, 2025, provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generous gift helps equip college students for leadership, strengthens global mission partnerships, sustains health and social service ministries, supports the formation of new congregations, cares for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

Your gift has the power to transform lives and extend the love of Christ around the world. [Give online today](#) or through your congregation. Thank you for making a difference.

(more information is available at: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/>)

Pentecost Offering – June 1 & 8

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the [New Church Ministry](#).