

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, August 8, 2017



The other day I needed to run an errand on the way to pick up Amelia from daycare. Four blocks into my drive, two blocks past where I should have turned, I suddenly realized I had forgotten all about the extra stop. Once I got in the car my mental auto pilot turned on and took me on my normal route despite my better intentions.

My mistake was easily corrected; a couple of extra turns and I ran my errand with almost no time lost. It is, however, an example of the ways we struggle with change. Not only does change make us uncomfortable, our good intentions can be tripped up by the ruts we've created in our lives.

Change on a small scale is difficult enough, but on a large scale, such as we're seeking to do with how we live our life as a church community, is ridden with discomfort and deep ruts. Change, even wonderful, Spirit-led change, is disruptive. It pushes us out of our routines as it creates new paths of movement. That disruption can be intimidating, especially when the destination is not entirely clear, when part of the change is stepping out of well-worn tracks and building a new road to follow. We might be afraid of the uncertainty; we might be afraid of not getting it right; we might be afraid that we won't like where we end up. These are all rational fears. Times are uncertain; we probably won't get it completely right the first time; God might be calling us in ways we'd prefer She didn't. Yet, we are reminded throughout Scripture that fear doesn't have the last word. God has the last word. God invites us to give our fear to Him so that He might share the burden. God invites us into Her hope, a hope and faith to carry us through even the most difficult of times. God invites us to rejoice in the movement of the Spirit among us even as it disrupts our routines.

It is tough for fear to take the upper hand in the midst of celebration. So, let us celebrate the work of God among us and our responses to God's movement. Let us celebrate the gifts the Spirit has given to each of us and the ways we use our gifts to show God's love. Let us celebrate all the ways we are trying to live into God's call, even those attempts that take us a few blocks past where we should have turned. Let us celebrate the ways we are opening our lives to God and to one another as we strive to live into God's calling.

Laura

CCVP in 2020

We are taking steps to live into our new Design, enhancing our relationships with God, one another, and the community around us. CCVP in 2020 has talked with the Board and the Deacons, sharing joys and concerns about what lies ahead and dreaming about new ways to do ministry. We still have questions about what this all looks like. We have identified some places where we need to provide more clarity in our Design. We will be having a conversation with the Elders soon, asking the same questions and dreaming together.

Know that you are a part of this work of transition. We cannot move without you. We ask that you continue to be in prayer with and for our congregation as we follow God's leadings. God is at the heart of all we do and your prayers help keep a sense of the Spirit's presence fresh. Thank you.

Laura on Vacation

Pastor Laura is on vacation August 7-13. Please call Elder Betty Prorak (847-977-0797) if you have a care emergency. Rev. Dwight Bailey will preach on August 13.

Summer Worship Time

A reminder that worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays through August 27. Worship will return to 10:30am on September 3

Online Course on Worship

Here's a link to the Region's article about an online course on worship they are subsidizing for us. I've signed up for it, but this is for anyone else who may be interested.

<https://cciwdisciples.org/2017/07/the-gift-of-revitalization-6-week-interactive-online-worship-learning-with-dr-marcia-mcfree-free-to-you/>

Laura

Spiritual Gifts Classes

As part of our effort to follow the lead of the Spirit, we are offering a class called *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*.

Our first group will complete their study this month, with a Ministry Celebration held during and after worship on August 27. The course will be offered again starting on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00am. We are working on finding four Wednesday afternoons in October/November to offer the class in 2-hour sessions. There is a sign-up sheet at church for these classes. If there is another time that works better for you, please let us know.

As we move forward with our new structure, the Design of the Christian Church of Villa Park, this is a perfect time for each of us to discover our gifts and the ministry to which we are called.

Laura Reed and Betty Prorak



Reading Suggestions

“A book of Poetry”

- *Selected Poems*, Gwendolyn Brooks
The classic volume showcases an esteemed artist's technical mastery, her warm humanity, and her compassionate and illuminating response to a complex world.
- *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*, Pablo Neruda
This most popular work by Chile's Nobel Prize-winning poet appeared in 1924, launching into the international spotlight a young and unknown poet whose writings would ignite a generation.
- *The Essential Rumi*, Jalal al-Din Rumi
Through lyrical translations, encounter this exquisite literature of the ecstatic, spiritual poetry of thirteenth-century Sufi Mystic Rumi.
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, Shel Silverstein
This is a poetry collection that is outrageously funny and deeply profound. Come in . . . for where the sidewalk ends, Shel Silverstein's world begins.
- *Life on Mars*, Tracy K. Smith
With allusions to David Bowie and interplanetary travel, *Life on Mars* imagines a soundtrack for the universe to accompany the discoveries, failures, and oddities of human existence.
- *My Bright Abyss*, Christian Wiman
A moving meditation on what a viable contemporary faith—responsive not only to modern thought and science but also to religious tradition—might look like.

Love Your Neighbor Day 2017 – Volunteers Needed!



Our 3rd annual Love Your Neighbor Day will take place on September 23, 2017. As a congregation, we have expressed our desire to open our doors and go out into the community to do God's work. LYND is one of the ways that we have been doing that the last two years.

As of August 6, we have received applications from 20 homeowners who have work to be done. We are in need of volunteers to do that work! If you have a friend who you think would be interested, the volunteer application is available at the CCVP website www.ccvponline.net or you can pick up a printed copy of the form at church.

Volunteers Needed for Planning Food for LYND

We are in need of a couple of people to serve on the planning committee for food preparations for LYND. If you are willing to serve in this way, or are interested and would like more information, please talk to Doris Carter.

Foresight Date

The September Foresight will be published a week early on the 5th. The news deadline will be 11:00 am Monday, September 4 (Labor Day).

From the Board of Directors

At our meeting on July 22, Laura reported on her time at the General Assembly. There were learning mornings sessions which she attended on social justice and community involvement. She also attended business sessions and sessions on being a welcoming congregation to immigrants, on carbon neutrality, and on changing racist language within our denomination. Also, the big highlight, Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens was elected as the next General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

CCVP in 2020 will be meeting with leadership groups to look at their roles in the new structure. (The Board did this on July 22 at the end of their business meeting.) The committee will send out regular communications to keep the congregation informed as we move forward.

Terra Vista of Oakbrook Terrace, a memory care facility, is looking for Protestant worship leaders to serve their community. Laura is seeking other congregations to work with us so each group can go once a month.

We have dead trees along the north end of the parking lot. We have located the plat of the church's lots. We need someone who can read them to determine if the trees are on our property.

The space-sharing agreement with Fountain of Life Evangelical Church of Chicago has been renewed for 18 months (through December 2018).

We are seeking a new cleaning service or individual as Joan Fuller no longer needs the position. [As of August 1, position filled.]

Betty Prorak & Amy Slinkman

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the end of September. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due on Sunday, August 27. 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.

July Food Pantry Stats

161 Households Served

630 People Served

Local Garage Sale on August 10, 11, 12

Tina Marie Amodeo and her parents are holding a garage sale at their home this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, August 10, 11, and 12, for 9am-5pm. Their address is 913 E. Krage Drive, Addison, IL 60101. If you have any questions or need directions, call or text Tina Marie at 630-723-8801.

July 31, 2017 Financial Summary

	July	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$9,318.15	\$60,322.35
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,973.96	\$63,806.20

Joys and Concerns



Ruth and John Martin enjoyed the Interfaith Vigil for Peace at the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park on July 6.

The Proraks give thanks for a week of wonderful family time in a rental house near Saugatuck, Michigan the last week in July.

Tina Marie Amodeo and Betty Prorak enjoyed their time helping to stuff backpacks for the Back-to-School Fair that will be held at the First Christian Church of Downers Grove this Saturday.

Rev. Jerrienne Iseley, who has preached for us a few times, had hip replacement surgery on July 5. Pray for her continued recovery/rehab.

Tina Marie Amodeo is still waiting for her new MS medication. She has been approved/accepted for it, but there has been some problem with its availability.

Jane Reid has shingles. She says she has had no pain, but looks “like something out of a Dracula movie.” She is very thankful that she did not lose vision in either of her eyes.



The local CROP Walk that benefits the Disciples Food Pantry and many other hunger relief efforts will be on Sunday, October 15, 2017 with registration at 1:00pm and step-off at 1:30pm from Lombard Commons Park.

You can register online to be a walker. You can also donate to one of our walkers or to the Christian Church of Villa Park Team at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lombardil/Team/View/43561/Christian-Church-of-Villa-Park> .

If you prefer to write a check to make a donation, please write the check to the Christian Church of Villa Park with a designation to “CROP Walk.” The church treasurer (Chuck Bohl) or financial secretary (Betty Prorak) will see that your donation gets to CROP.

Birthdays



3 Doris Carter
13 Raja Philip
18 James Schultz

Special Music/Choir News



Do you have a gift for music? Do you want to share your gift by praising God? Sign up to provide special music in worship! You can email Pastor Laura, ccvppastor@yahoo.com, to set a date. We would love to have you share your musical gifts with us! If you will need accompaniment, please talk to Eric. If you'd like to use a CD player, we have one available.



Norine Nelson has a woman who comes for 4 hours per week to take care of errands and other household concerns. Norine says the help is working out well.

Former member Mike Smith and his wife Miriam are now living in Mexico. They had a son born this spring, Oliver Kent.

Judy (Smith) Peace's grandson Dana is playing in a band called Southtown in San Antonio. His girlfriend is the lead singer. Her father is the manager of the Toronto Blue Jays and he arranged and paid for their high school band to travel to Toronto to play at a game.

Former member Bob Conquest spent some time in the hospital early in July for heart tests and an angioplasty. All is looking good now.

Kim Martin hosted a fabulous baby shower for sister Becky Ziegler in Fellowship Hall on July 29.

Jane Reid has a new cell phone 331-703-8892 and her landline has been repaired so her 630-665-7434 number is available to use again.

Doug Reid has been in town to help his mom as she recovers from shingles. Jane hopes to be back in worship soon.

The Log in Your Eye

This humorous illustration of how *not* to get along at college also demonstrates Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:3-5.

A young man from Scotland went to study at an English university. A month into the school year, his mother visited and asked how he liked living in the dorm. "It's awful!" he exclaimed. "The fellow in the room next door bangs his head on the wall constantly, and the one on the other side screams all day."

"How do you stand it?" his mother asked in amazement.

"Oh, I ignore them," her son replied. "I just sit here quietly, playing my bagpipes."

Food for Thought...

It is easy to get used to the morning news, habituated. But don't. The morning news is yours to alter. - Samantha Power

What is done cannot be undone, but one can prevent it happening again. - Anne Frank

Enlighten our vision, God, so we may not only see and receive your mercy, but also notice the places in our world where you call us to extend mercy.

- adapted from Common Prayer