

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Embracing our
COMMUNITY

It seems that every month as I sit to write for the Foresight, there has been some act of unspeakable violence that demands a response. Today is no different. A gunman entered a small-town church on a Sunday morning and killed dozens, a truck plowed into people in New York City, various other tragedies fill headlines every day. I sit and wonder if I should speak of my grief and fear, of God's presence and love, of our overly violent society and the need for change, or all of the above. And yet...I don't want to write of any of this again. I wrote of it last month and last year and the year before that. I am tired of speaking of unspeakable violence.

Today, I want to rejoice. Today, I want to give thanks. I want to give thanks for people, for community, for those who stand beside us in times of trouble, who uplift us when we fall, who grieve with us, and who stand with us as we seek a more just and peaceful world. I want to give thanks for the people who embody God with us in the midst of even the greatest tragedies.

I have been blessed to be part of a group of religious leaders from Villa Park and Lombard who are working to create the Interfaith Partnership of Lombard/Villa Park. We represent Protestant Christians, Reformed Jews, and Muslims. We are dedicated to affirming our unity in seeking justice and peace, in upholding the dignity of each and every human, and caring for creation. We are building relationships that lead us into deep conversation about the issues facing our communities, that help us to better understand and give thanks for our diversity.

As each day we are faced with all the ways we, as humans, harm one another and foment divisions, I give thanks for this group and the communities we represent. I give thanks for voices that challenge my preconceived ideas. I give thanks for shared struggle and a willingness to stand with one another. I give thanks for shared questions and new ways of creating community and caring for the most vulnerable among us.

On Sunday, November 19, we will be sharing an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. We will give thanks as a gathered community for our relationships, for the ways we care for one another as a community, and for the ways we seek to move the world into more just and peaceful structures. I hope you will join us.

Laura



The local CROP Walk that benefits the Disciples Food Pantry and many other hunger relief efforts took place on Sunday, October 15, 2017. We had 5 walkers participate: Doris Carter, Dan Carter, Raja Philip, Betty Prorak, and Laura Reed. This team raised \$750 to fight hunger.



As you prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do with the gifts he has given you, please let Laura or one of the Elders (Dan Carter, John Martin, Betty Prorak, Jane Reid) know if you would like to do any of the following:

- Serve as a Deacon
- Serve as an Elder
- Serve as a Worship Leader
- Serve on the Stewardship Council
- Help coordinate the Craft Fair

Ministry Gathering

Thanks be to God for the faithful conversation that was our first Ministry Gathering. Our Design calls for Ministry Leaders to gather quarterly to share in the wisdom of one another and the Spirit.

After worship and a meal, ten of us gathered to share about the ministries of our congregation. Many thanks to all the ministry leaders who shared the joys and concerns they face in their leadership and their ministries. There were many joys to be lifted. Over and over, from a variety of ministries, one thing we lifted as a joy was working with and for others. We celebrated relationships built and people helped. We celebrated voices heard and growth seen.

It was also good to hear and be reminded of the ways leadership is difficult. It reminded us that we are not alone, that we do not need to be perfect, but that we come as we are when we come to give our gifts to God. The act of sharing was also a catalyst to help others see where God could put their gifts to work. Ideas and “I can do that” met many statements of need. Praise God for the ways God works in our community!

Laura

Join us for an

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m.

Islamic Foundation
300 W Highridge Road
Villa Park

We will collect donations for P.A.D.S. They need handwarmers, sturdy warm waterproof gloves, and underwear (men’s boxers and women’s). Cash donations will also be accepted.

Conversation Faith Humanity
Diversity Earth

Sponsored by the Interfaith Partners of Lombard/Villa Park

Calvary Episcopal Church	First United Methodist Church of Lombard
Christian Church of Villa Park (Disciples of Christ)	Islamic Foundation of Villa Park
Congregation Etz Chaim	Parables Community
First Church of Lombard UCC	York Center Church of the Brethren

Reading Suggestions



“A biography”

- *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*, Robert K. Massie
The extraordinary story of an obscure German princess who became one of the most remarkable, powerful, and captivating women in history, transforming herself into empress of Russia by sheer determination.
- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, Phillip Hoose
Fed up with the daily injustices of segregation she refused to give her bus seat to a white woman, 9 months before Rosa Parks. A year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*.
- *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*, Timothy Egan
Edward Curtis was a famous portrait photographer, the Annie Leibovitz of his time. But when he was thirty-two years old, in 1900, he gave it all up to pursue his Great Idea: to capture on film the continent’s original inhabitants before the old ways disappeared.
- *The Last Lone Inventor*, Evan Schwartz
By the age of 20, Philo T. Farnsworth was operating a laboratory above a garage and filing for patents. Publicity caught the attention of RCA tycoon David Sarnoff, who became determined to control television as he monopolized radio.
- *American Sphinx*, Joseph Ellis
Ellis sifts the facts shrewdly from the legends and the rumors, treading a path between vilification and hero worship in order to formulate a plausible portrait of Thomas Jefferson, whose memory still influences so much of our politics.

Christmas Is Coming...

The worship service on November 26 will lead into the Hanging of the Greens to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Plan on staying for a while to help and to enjoy some Christmas treats.

We will worship together with Fountain of Life Evangelical Church of Chicago in our sanctuary on December 10. The exact worship time is not set yet, but will be 10:30 or 11:00am.

We will have two services on December 24 – one at 10:30am (because it is Sunday) and one at 7:00pm (because it is Christmas Eve).

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due this Sunday, November 19. This is two weeks later than originally planned to give you a chance to “Think Christmas!” in terms of gift cards to order. 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 end of this month. Please sign up or let Betty Prorak know of your order by November 26. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

October 31, 2017 Financial Summary

	October	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$11,170.42	\$85,481.48
Budgeted expenses:	\$8,377.50	\$86,818.85

Choir News



The choir will practice on November 27, December 4, and December 18 at 7:00pm. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please let Eric Hays know so that he will include you in the emails about rehearsals. (phone 630-577-7286, email hayskeys@gmail.com)

October Food Pantry Stats

167 Households Served

663 People Served

Joys and Concerns



Thank you to all who helped mop, brought buckets and tarps, placed buckets and tarps, emptied buckets, moved furniture and did everything else to deal with the water coming in through the church's leaking flat roof last month.

We also give thanks for the repair work that was done on the roof by Tom Preston's company, Dura-Ply Roofing, at no charge!

Ruth and John Martin became grandparents at 3:45am on Tuesday, October 17, when Julian John was born to Becky and Dustin Ziegler.

John Martin is continuing to recover from his heart surgery and has been on worship the last three Sundays.

Jane Reid's skin cancer surgery was easier than going to the dentist! There will be no scar. And almost all of the redness from shingles is gone. Still some cellulitis on her nose.

We celebrate with all those who have completed the study of Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts.

We give thanks for a wonderful first Ministry Gathering on November 12.

Ariel Grove, Ruth and John Martin's great-niece, had pneumonia and sepsis after having a tonsillectomy; she was in an induced coma. We give thanks that she is now off of the ventilator. She will, however, require regular reopening of her airways due to scarring, so please continue to keep her and her family in prayer.

Cindy (Robbins) Carlander is still fighting a rash that developed after her cancer surgery. The cause of the rash is yet unknown.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Kim Martin
5 Betty Prorak
24 Doug Reid
27 Sue Severino

9 Joan & John Fuller
28 Minni & Raja Philip

Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council will meet this Saturday at 9:30am to look over the results of the financial commitments made on Consecration Sunday and make any necessary adjustments in the proposed 2018 budget. As of this writing, our projected income for 2018 is looking very good; the financial secretary (Betty Prorak) just has to hear from a few families who did not turn in pledge cards yet.

The Stewardship Council will send all members a letter with the final figures to prepare for a congregational meeting on December 17.



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

Currently, over 50,000 students attend our fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.

On November 19 and 26, our congregation will add to Disciples churches across the US and Canada collecting the Thanksgiving offering. Your gift to the Thanksgiving offering helps to support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.



Former member Milt Potee is coping very well with cancer and continues to lead a very active life. Vivian began a support group for grieving people. Started at the time they got the news of Milts physical illness. That was a surprise!

Elaine Smith has had several operations all of which were successfully completed. She gives many thanks for the wonderful doctors who took care of her. She has both sons, Scott and Blair, living close by, and they will spend Thanksgiving with Mark who has his own business in Palm Springs, California. They go every other year and have a great time. Daughter Leslie and her family have their own business, which is thriving. Elaine's church's garage sale netted \$8,000 this year!

A recent letter from Marilyn Kovach Gardner shared the sad news of her husband's passing this year, He had not been in good health the past few years, and finally said he was tired of trying to get better when his body was "wearing out." Many vets came to see him and at his memorial service the Police Honor Guard presented the flag to one their children. He was very involved with school activities for children, a leader in their church, and " he loved keeping the church clean for many years".

(Letters or emails from Vivian, Elaine, and Marilyn can be read if you'd like to; see Jane Reid for that.)

Louise Lynch spent a few days with her daughter-in-law during Irma's visit this summer. Very high winds and huge rain storms tore through the area where they live. The daughter's-in-law home was boarded up and had a generator to supply needed electricity, neither of which Louise had. Her home was not harmed, however

Michelle Boucher was recently married in Florida and we wish her and her husband a blessed life together.

Eric Hays and his fiancé bought a home in Lombard and with the help of friends are rehabbing it, bringing it up to date. They will enjoy two weddings this August. One in Poland with the bride's relatives. This will last three days. Europeans know how to celebrate! Then, when they return a wedding will be held here.