

Foresight

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



Tuesday, March 13, 2018

As we head deeper into Lent, I find myself feeling more lost in the wilderness than when we began. I thought I knew where we heading this season, but now I'm not so sure. I am completely discombobulated. (It's ok if you're not feeling the same way. Indeed, I hope you are not.) For me, a little bit of everything has come together to leave the world feeling like its spinning too fast as I struggle to find my bearings.

During Lent, we're talking about some fairly heavy subjects in worship. While I have preached these topics before, I don't know that I've spent consecutive weeks delving so deeply before. These are hard, controversial subjects and I want to get them right. They are also disturbing subjects in their content and pervasiveness. Why are these kinds of things still happening? Why haven't we (humanity) gotten in right yet?

Even as we talk about the way God wants the world to be and some ways we're not quite there yet, there are so many more signs of just how far we are from God's dream. Wars continue unabated. Words of disgust and hatred for those who don't think, look, or act like "us" are flung from every direction. Gun violence rages in our country and even school children are not safe. Victims of all kinds of violence are derided or doubted when they speak out and advocate for change. Where is God in all this? Can anyone hear the Word over the noise?

Layered into these worldly pains and questions, I struggle with renewed symptoms of depression and anxiety. For no reason and every reason each day is harder to get through than it used to be. Even the small, insignificant things take on new, out-sized importance. Joy is hard to find. How do I keep from being completely overwhelmed? Where has hope been put?

To me, everything seems upside-down. This is exactly the sentiment I set out to frame our Lenten journey. The world is upside-down from the way God would have it be. Yet...I haven't yet found my way to the right-side up. I'm afraid that if I dwell in this feeling of upside-down too long I will readjust and what is down will feel like it is up and up will feel like down. I need God to help me through the last part of this journey. I find myself at the foot of the cross, the most upside-down move God has ever made. Will I see the light of God's good news in this unexpected place?

Laura

February Food Pantry Stats
Households Served
People Served

Choir News



The choir will practice on Mondays January 8 and January 22 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)

February 28, 2018 Financial Summary

	February	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$ 6,054.00	\$ 9,386.57
Budgeted expenses:	\$ 12,982.00	\$ 17,679.28

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of April. Please sign up by April 1. 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, May 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 John Martin (jwmartin7@comcast.net) or Betty Prorak (after April 1: BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.



Easter Special Offering – March 25 and April 1

Like good stewards of the multi-colored grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering include: the Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Communication Ministries, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples Church Extension Fund / Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, and Treasury Services.

Joys and Concerns

Carol Robbins has been experiencing some left leg & hip pain these past few weeks. She's hoping a recent doctor visit will illuminate why and how to prevent further pain.



CCVP in 2020 team asks that you pray for our congregation, our living into the design, and our continued call every Thursday. Pray to God and seek to hear God. Do so as part of your regular prayers or as a special moment. Pray for a minute or for an hour. However you pray do so knowing that the body of Christ prays with you. Know that we are together even as we are apart.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



5 Diana Robbins
6 Laura Reed
18 Amelia Reed
20 Dan Carter

14 Betty & Steve Prorak
29 Amy & Ed Slinkman



Doris and Dan Carter have returned from their mission trip to Costa Rica. We are joyful for their work and look forward to hearing their stories.



Each year we participate, as a congregation, in a 24-hour prayer vigil after the Maundy Thursday worship service (March 29). A signup sheet for the prayer vigil is posted at church. You are invited to sign up for one or more half-hour time slots. You can come to the church to pray or you can pray at home. A list of prayer requests will be provided to assist your times of prayer. If you cannot get to church to sign up and would like to participate, please contact Jane Reid at 630.665.7434 or janelreid@comcast.net.

You're invited...

“Listening for Grace” at Lombard Mennonite Church on Sat., April 7, 2018, at 7 p.m.

“Listening for Grace” is a play by Virginia-based Ted & Co. TheaterWorks, designed to help churches have healthy conversation about same-sex sexuality. Listening for Grace tells the story of one man, Daryl, a father and a widower whose only child comes out as gay. Daryl wrestles with how to respond to his son in a Christian way. This play does not give easy answers, but it asks us who we want to be in this often-polarizing conversation. Find out more on Facebook or see a video preview of it at the www.ListeningforGrace.com website.

Coming Soon...Arts & Crafts Fair



On Saturday, May 5, CCVP will host its 8th annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair. We hope you will volunteer to help as well as to do some shopping with our artists and crafters. Starting in April, sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board by the church office. We will need our members to sign-up to help with baking, setting up (after worship Sunday, April 29, and on Friday evening, May 4), meeting crafters on Saturday morning and helping them get moved in, running the raffle, and cleaning up. We will also need you to help spread the word about the Fair and help us to have a good turnout so that it is a worthwhile day for our crafters. Flyers with information about the Fair will be available at church for posting in the community. Also, if you are in Facebook, you can share the event from the church's page.

The Funny Pages

The following are actual Church Bulletin "Bloopers" that were passed on to me from a devoted reader!

- *Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
- *The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.
- *The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- *Due to the Pastor's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

We hope this brought a smile to your face today!