

# Foresight

Looking to the Future  
Christian Church of Villa Park  
1336 S. Villa Avenue  
Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 833-7262

E-mail: [mail@ccvpONLINE.net](mailto:mail@ccvpONLINE.net)

Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



**Tuesday, October 10, 2017**



What do you do when things happen that throw every plan to the wind? I've been thinking about this as multiple events in lives around me and in my own life have taken unexpected turns, for better and worse. How do I, how do we, live our lives in the constant potential and sometime actuality of disruptive change?

Death, sudden illness, job loss, broken relationships, even positive change like marriage, retirement, and children are difficult reroutings to navigate. Something valued is gone or changed and nothing will be exactly the same again. These aren't just feelings, this is reality; nothing will be the same again. The road through these events is difficult and bumpy and it can be hard to discern where the road will turn next. We reevaluate who we are in the face of dramatic changes in those things which defined us. The loss of a loved one, an illness that limits ability to engage in favorite activities, a career ended, people added to our family, all force us to think anew about who we are in relation to the world around us. Who are we, now that we have added or subtracted pieces of our puzzle? Will all the pieces fit together again? Answers don't come quickly. They must be discovered along the way ahead.

Sometimes we want to refuse to explore that path. We let fear whisper in our ear that not being exactly the same again means that nothing will be good again, that we have nowhere to go from here. In silence at Bethany Fellows a couple of weeks ago, contemplating God's calling, I realized how much fear drives me, telling me that I shouldn't try new ways of being, because I might fail, I might not be enough. I imagine this fear is familiar to many of you. But, as I listened, under the whispers of my fear I heard my - our - true, solid foundation. Hope.

I have been praying an interpretation of the Psalms and recently many have spoken to that fear. "For nagging doubts assail me, bringing loneliness and pain; I remember not the Beloved, so overwhelming are my fears." This is so often where I, at least, live. The doubts overwhelm, the fear whispers and I am alone. But these are not final words. They are followed immediately by, "Yet behold, You are my helper, the upholder of my life. With You I have strength to face my fears, in Your faithfulness help me to let them go... You deliver me from illusion, and, through Love, my heart opens to Wisdom." Hope. God. Foundation. This is not "Jesus, take the wheel" giving up of control, but building our foundations on opening to God's wisdom, on remembering that we do not need to react in fear because we can act through the love and wisdom of God.

*Laura*

## **Ministry Gathering on November 12**

You are invited! On November 12, after worship, you are invited to our first Ministry Gathering. This is a time for Ministry Leaders, those thinking about new ministries, and anyone interested in the ministries of our church to gather for holy conversation. We will nourish and rejuvenate our souls together. We will share our joys and concerns in ministry and learn from our gathered wisdom. Through our conversation we might discover new ways of doing and find strength in remembering our ministry is done alongside others.

We will begin our time together with a meal, which will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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:

- Coordinate a community holiday meal (as we did last November)
- Serve as a Deacon
- Serve as an Elder
- Serve as a Worship Leader
- Serve on the Stewardship Council
- Help coordinate the Craft Fair

## Ministries

This last month has been filled with a multitude of conversations and ministries for me. I have been blessed to engage in conversations with other pastors, sharing wisdom and ideas, hopes and struggles. I spent a week with other young, Disciples clergy at Bethany Fellows in Atlanta. We shared about our lives and work and had the opportunity to speak with clergy in the Atlanta area about the work they are doing. We spent an afternoon delving into the justice legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ebenezer Baptist Church. It was a wonderful, rejuvenating week. In addition to that gathering, I met with the Villa Park/Lombard Ecumenical clergy group, sharing news of what is happening in our church communities.

I continue to work with other faith leaders to create and grow the Interfaith Partners of Villa Park and Lombard. I am excited about the work we are doing and am particularly looking forward to our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 19 at 3pm. I hope you will put it on your calendars.

Along with others in our congregation, I have been blessed to lead a worship service with residents of Terra Vista, a local memory care home. It is wonderful to sing hymns, pray, commune, and practice our faith stories with this community.

Friday Night Connect, an evening of fun for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders has had its first gathering of the year. In our second year, we are now offering this 3 times a month rather than 1 and are looking forward to seeing this community partnership grow.

*Laura*



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.

We have 5 walkers registered: Betty Prorak, Laura Reed, Doris Carter, Dan Carter, and Raja Philip. You can donate to one of them or to the Christian Church of Villa Park Team at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lombardil/Team/View/43561/Christian-Church-of-Villa-Park> . (There is also a link on the church's website.)

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.

## Love Your Neighbor Day 2017



Our third annual Love Your Neighbor Day was a success thanks to all of the volunteers who dedicated their time in planning LYND 2017 and all of the volunteers who spent time helping people in need. This year, we partnered again with Calvary United Methodist Church in Villa Park and our new partner St. John's Lutheran Church in Lombard. On Saturday, September 23, 2017, 80 volunteers came together and helped 18 of our neighbors in the Lombard/Villa Park area. In addition, 3 more homeowners were helped on different days by 5 additional volunteers who were unable to be present on September 23, 2017. This was a significant increase from the first two years when 50 volunteers helped 10 homeowners.

LYND is more and more becoming a community wide event. Besides the 3 participating churches that planned and hosted the event, we had participation by members of a number of other churches in the Lombard/Villa Park area. We also had the support of two of the Village of Villa Park trustees. One of the trustees, Robert Wagner, arranged for us to get a dumpster at no cost from Roy Strom, and also connected us to a Village of Lombard official who arranged with Waste Management to provide free yard waste pick up which saved us hundreds of dollars. In addition, the following local businesses made contributions to LYND: Chick-fil-A in Elmhurst; Mike's Meat Market, McDonald's, Jewel, Target, Kuppies Bakery, Starbuck's, and Walgreens in Villa Park; and Lilac Bakery in Lombard. Ruth Martin did a great job of soliciting these donations.

From the comments made by the volunteers to the thank you notes received from the homeowners, this was a great day of sharing God's love in our community. Be sure to check out the Love Your Neighbor Day Facebook page to see great photos of our volunteers and work being done.

Note from Doris Carter: I would personally like to thank the CCVP members who served on this year's planning committee which started meeting in April to make LYND 2017 happen: Chuck Bohl, Dan Carter, John Martin, Ruth Martin, Beth Morgan and Betty Prorak. And thank you to all of our members who volunteered to help a neighbor in need!

### Reading Suggestions

“A book of theology”



- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, James Cone  
The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.
- *Apologetics without Apology*, Elaine Graham  
Graham argues that everyone, from church leaders, theologians, local activists, and campaigners, needs to be able to justify the very relevance of their faith to a culture that no longer grants automatic privilege or credence.
- *Reset the Heart: Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope*, Mai-Anh Le Tran  
This book addresses practical concerns with three paradigmatic questions: What does it mean to educate for faith in a world marked by violence? How are Christian communities complicit in the teaching and learning of violence? What renewed practices of faith yield potential for unlearning and unmaking violence?
- *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis  
This book explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together and provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear his powerful apologetic for the Christian faith.
- *Exclusion & Embrace*, Miroslav Volf  
Most solutions to the problem of exclusion have asked, what kind of society ought we to create in order to accommodate difference? Volf focuses, rather, on “what kind of selves we need to be in order to live in harmony with others.”



A reminder that you will gain an hour early in the morning on Sunday, November 5. Fall back; set your clocks one hour back before going to bed on Saturday, November 4.

## Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due on Sunday, November 5. 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](http://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 November. 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.

## Choir News

Choir practices have begun! (There was one last night.) 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](mailto:hayskeys@gmail.com))



### September Food Pantry Stats

199 Households Served  
753 People Served

## Disaster Relief

If you would like to donate to hurricane or fire relief efforts, you can do so with a check to the church for Week of Compassion or online at <https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/weekofcompassion> . Week of Compassion works through a remarkable network of church partner organizations and partnerships that insures that our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient, effective and faithful.

## September 30, 2017 Financial Summary

	September	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$6,142.83	\$75,286.06
Budgeted expenses:	\$6,527.48	\$79,370.47

## Joys and Concerns



Jane Reid is fully recovered and was in worship on October 8. Welcome back, Jane!

John Martin is recovering well from quadruple by-pass surgery he had on September 26. He went home on Saturday, September 30.

Chuck Bohl is thankful for the success of his wife's (Diane) cochlear operation and improved hearing.

Deloris Yowell continues to heal. Her broken arm did not require surgery.

Joshua Reed has taken on new responsibilities at work and asks for prayers of strength and faithfulness for him and his family as they live into the changes this is bringing.

Chloe Slinkman sprained her ankle. She was on crutches until she received a boot.

It was recently found that Joan Kagebein broke 3 ribs back in that fall that she had several weeks ago. But she and Carl were in worship on October 1!

Cindy (Robbins) Carlander had surgery for breast cancer on Wednesday, October 4. Other than a pesky skin rash, her recovery is going well. Tests found no cancer in her lymph nodes.

## Birthdays & Anniversary



2 John Martin  
11 Ken Newton  
15 Steve Prorak  
17 Melancthon Philip

26 Carol & Jerry Robbins



Doris and Dan Carter, along with family and friends, had a fabulous time on their biking trip in Germany.

Betty and Steve Prorak traveled to Baffin Island (northeastern Canada) and the west coast of Greenland on an expedition cruise. Most days of the 10-day trip they went out on Zodiacs (special motor boats) to explore areas.

## On the Lighter Side

They're back! Those wonderful bloopers from church bulletins or newsletters. All of these actually appeared in writing or were announced in church services (Not ours, of course!).

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.