

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
Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, July 4, 2017



In January, I shared the importance of books in my life and faith journey. I also shared a challenge, a reading challenge to build us up, broaden our horizons, and bring us joy. Six months later, I want to check in, to tell you where I am in my reading (what has touched me, frustrated me, and enlivened me) and to ask where you are.

I have done a lot of reading this year. For me, that's nothing new. I always read a lot, but in the midst of all that reading I have been less successful than I hoped at reading things that are new and challenging. As I look at the check marks by the categories I've completed, they are mostly by those that I could have checked off in January knowing that, with no planning or intent, I would read things that fell into those categories. I've done less reading in many of those categories in which I've suggested books. I just want you to know that even though I can list good books to read, I don't necessarily find it any easier to start reading.

There are a few books, however, that have stood out for me recently. I just finished a wonderful book on Christian living. Wearing God by Lauren F. Winner has been a joy for me as she explores biblical images of God we usually overlook and how those images can enhance our lived faith. It is a beautifully written, thought provoking exploration.

Another book I discovered this year is Death with Interruptions by Jose Saramago. It explores, in a gently humorous way, what would happen if death decided to take some time off. What if death gets bored with her work? What if no one dies? How will we live?

I'm also currently rereading Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff by Christopher Moore. It's a funny, irreverent, take on the life of Jesus. I think I enjoy it so much because Biff is just so normal. He finds it hard to understand and live with his best pal, the Messiah, who loves everyone and lives in honesty and kindness. Biff is sarcastic and can hold a grudge. And yet... Biff faithfully follows Jesus even as he struggles.

Having shared some of my reading, some of what moves me, I want to know what moves you. What new book have you read? What old favorite did you return to? I invited your conversation in January as well, but today I have a more specific request. In worship on July 30 we will be focusing on story sharing and how stories affect us and our lives. I would love to know what written works, outside of scripture, have formed you. Share with me by July 18 to help me form this service as together we explore the ways the written word pushes us and comforts us, enlightens us and disturbs us.

Laura

Foresight Dates

The August Foresight will be mailed and posted at the usual time, on the second Tuesday of the month, August 8. The September Foresight will be a week early on the 5th. The news deadlines will be 11:00 am Monday, August 7 and Monday, September 7.

Summer Worship Time

A reminder that worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays through August 27.

<p>June Food Pantry Stats 168 Households Served 660 People Served</p>
--

CCVP in 2020: The Design for CCVP

Thank you for all your prayers and your conversations. Thank you for sharing your wisdom and your presence. Together we have created and adopted a document that frames a richer way of being together. On June 25, after much discernment we adopted the Design of the Christian Church of Villa Park to become effective on September 1, 2017.

Our new Design focuses us on our relationships with God, one another, and the community around us. It calls us into God's work and to use the gifts given to us by the Spirit. We look forward to living into these new ways of ministry.

We also know that living into this way of being will take work and time. Over the summer, we will be working to make this dream a lived reality. We will be meeting with leadership groups to identify what living into the Design means. We will be creating resources to help support our ministries. We will ask that you begin to consider how you are called to minister to God's people. Through this all, we will share with you all that is happening in our church.

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.

Spiritual Gifts Classes

What is the church, really? At least one answer to that question is this: The church is the body of Christ on earth. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1Corinthians 12:27).

The Holy Spirit has given each of us unique gifts to carry out God's work in the world. It is not easy, however, to discover our gifts or to develop and use them effectively. That's why we are offering the course Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts.

Where do you fit into Christ's plan for the world? The answer lies in the unique gifts God has given you. This course will provide a renewed understanding of who God created you to be and God's design for Christian community. You'll find clues to your spiritual gifts in the Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory and other gifts discovery activities. Then you'll explore opportunities to further develop and use your gifts.

The first class began on June 25 and will meet for an hour every Sunday after worship in the church library through August 13. The course will be repeated starting on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00am. If there is another time frame – say 4 sessions of 2 hours each – that will work better for you, please indicate it on the sign-up sheet at church.

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 about history”

- *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*, Mary Beard
Spanning nearly a thousand years of history, this "highly readable" work examines not just how we think of ancient Rome but challenges the comfortable historical perspectives that have existed for centuries.
- *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families*, Philip Gourevitch
This book chronicles what has happened in Rwanda and neighboring states since 1994, when the Rwandan government called on everyone in the Hutu majority to murder everyone in the Tutsi minority.
- *The Great and Holy War*, Philip Jenkins
At the one-hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the war this book reveals the powerful religious dimensions of this period that was a traumatic crisis for Western civilization.
- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, Charles C. Mann
This work of science, history, and archaeology radically alters our understanding of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus in 1492. It is a transformative look at a rich and fascinating world we only thought we knew.
- *Hard Times: an Oral History of the Great Depression*, Studs Terkel
Featuring a mosaic of memories from those who were just kids to those who remember losing a fortune, *Hard Times* is not only a gold mine of information but a fascinating interplay of memory and fact.

Interfaith Vigil for Peace and Justice – This Thursday, July 6, 6:30pm

After a horrific week of terrorist incidents in many parts of the world, we mourn the loss of precious human life and are saddened by the pain and suffering of so many. Whether in Portland, Manchester, London, Kabul, Tehran, or Baghdad, hate has no boundaries.

These unfathomable attacks are the result of hate-oriented ideologies that are determined to destroy the brotherhood of humanity, and further the divide between peoples based on race, religious, culture, and nationalism. The Holy Quran reminds us that the taking of a single life unjustifiably is like killing the soul of all of humanity. Accordingly, we cannot allow such vile intentions and ideologies to dominate the narrative of unity and bridge building. As American Muslims, we are committed to standing together in solidarity as one united community.

Come join us as we host an Interfaith Vigil for Peace and against violence and hate at the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park, 300 W Highridge Road, on July 6, 2017 at 6:30. Join us as we shine the light of peace brightly over the darkness of those who choose to divide us. Join us as we celebrate our solidarity and the beauty of humanity.

Downers Grove Back-to-School Fair: Donations and Volunteers Needed

The First Christian Church of Downers Grove (Disciples of Christ) is planning their annual Back-to-School Fair for Saturday, August 12 from noon until 3:00pm.



Items that they need for stuffing backpacks for students are pocket folders (only pockets inside, no brads) and spiral notebooks with solid-colored covers (red, green, purple, yellow, and blue). Please bring these to CCVP by July 30 for us to get them to Downers Grove the next day.

Volunteers are needed on Thursday, August 3, at 10:00am to stuff backpacks and on the day of the Fair, August 12, to help with food (preparation and serving) and games. If you will be able to help either time or both, please let Laura know by July 30.

Love Your Neighbor Day 2017 – Volunteer Forms Needed by July 16!



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.

LYND is an opportunity for everyone in the congregation to participate in some way and to invite friends and family to participate in the day's event. We expect that there will be a wide range of work to be done so all volunteers will not need to have construction skills. And for those who are not able to go out into the community to work on a home site, you can volunteer for helping with morning snacks, preparation of the lunches to be delivered to the volunteers, and delivering lunches to the job sites.

Since we have been receiving application from homeowners who are in need of our help, we would like to know as soon as possible who from our own congregation will be volunteering on LYND 2017. While we will have volunteers from Calvary Methodist in Villa Park and St. John's Lutheran in Lombard and other members of the community, the first step is to identify who in our congregation will be supporting LYND by serving as a volunteer. It would be very helpful if our own members could return your completed and signed volunteer forms to the LYND committee by **July 16, 2017** (before the next committee meeting). Volunteer forms are available in the narthex at church or on the church website.

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.

June 30, 2017 Financial Summary

	June	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$7,380.00	\$51,002.17
Budgeted expenses:	\$10,556.69	\$55,514.02

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

Your order for Jewel gift cards for August and September is due by Sunday, July 30. 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, September 3. 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.

From the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on Saturday, June 24. The big thing was preparing for the Congregational Meeting that was held on Sunday, June 25 to vote on accepting the Design of CCVP as our guiding document; the vote was to accept the Design.

Laura Reed and Betty Prorak both stressed the importance for the congregation to take one of the 8-week classes on Spiritual Gifts. The first session began last Sunday after the Congregational meeting; the second one will be in the fall during Sunday School time. The Board also committed the Congregation to participate in the Downers Grove CC's back-to-school project. There are several ways we can help with that, which are listed earlier in this Foresight.

Repairs need to be done on the tiles in the hall and to the lights in the sanctuary. We also need to determine if the dead trees to the north of the parking lot are on the church's property.

The Board will meet again on Saturday, July 21 at 9:30am in the Library.

John Martin, Board Chair

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.

Joys and Concerns



Former member Dave Cain's surgery on his neck went quite well on June 6. His recovery is going well.

Former member Milt Potee has inoperable bladder cancer, but he seems to be dealing with it quite well. The doctors have told him he has 2-3 years yet. His activity level has been reduced, but considering how active he has been, he is still doing a lot for a 92-year-old!

Many thanks for all the prayers and to all who stepped up to lead worship on June 11. Pastor Laura is doing much better after a bout of bronchitis.

Artemis Malos asks for prayers for finding a job in the fall, after the summer swimming season is over.

Joan Fuller's sister Gloria had successful shoulder surgery on June 21.

John Bristow, Erica Schultz's father, had successful cataract and astigmatism surgery on one eye and will be having the second surgery soon.

Congratulations to Kim Martin on her new OT job in Niles.

Congratulations to Joan and Carl Kagebein on their 60th wedding anniversary on June 22.

Pastor Laura shared with the congregation on June 25 that Bob and Marie Conquest have chosen to withdraw their membership from CCVP. While we will miss them, we ask that God's blessing be on them in the next stage of their journey.

Tina Marie Amodeo came home from Providence Healthcare & Rehab Center on Saturday, July 1. She asks for continued prayers as she and her doctor determine the next steps in treating her multiple sclerosis. She is glad to be home, and anxious to get back to church.

Birthdays



1	Randy Reid
4	Greg Goebel
30	Jil Benthin



The Carters, Philips, and Martins enjoyed their trip abroad last month to Ireland and Scotland. Word has it that they discovered a "have to" dessert that was added on to the daily schedule.

Carl Kagebein is recovering nicely from heart surgery, is up and about and looking good!

Artemis Malos and Gary Smith are looking forward to their wedding next month.

Norine Nelson is not able to drive any longer due to A-Fib concerns. She has a woman who comes daily to take care of errands and other household concerns. Norine says the help is working out well.

Minni and Mel's trip together to Australia has been cancelled.

Doug and Randy Reid, along with Minni Philip enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at Cooper's Hawk last month celebrating Jane's birthday.

Doug Reid is back in Texas, where he is in the process of making the great state of Texas his official residence.

The email address for Debra Studniarz is incorrect in the church directory. The correct address is debbiestudniarz@....

Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** – On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom** – “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** – July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- **Be light in the darkness** – As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* – as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) – share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus – dynamically! – with others.

-Heidi Mann

Independence Day Prayer

Chalice Press asked author Reverend Sandhya Rani Jha to offer a prayer for Independence Day.

God of all nations and ours,

As we ask the long-posed question, "does that star-spangled banner yet wave/o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?", help us make this land free

- free from hatred of religious minorities
- free from exploitation of laborers
- free from damage to the land and water so long cared for by our indigenous brothers and sisters
- free from contempt for immigrants who invest in this nation's thriving
- free from the new slavery of the prison system that tears apart so many Black and Brown families.

And help us be brave

- brave in the face of religious and racial violence;
- brave in contrast to the cowardice that would pit us against each other based on race or class;
- brave in order to care for refugees of all sorts as our scripture calls us to
- brave in order to do your will even when doing so is unpopular.

After all, our founding fathers were not very popular with the British.

God, even as we celebrate the blessings of this nation, help us be humble enough to know that you really are the God of all nations, and that you do not honor human-made boundaries, but honor the divinity and dignity of each person whom you made in your own image. May we remember that as we live as Americans in this complex global landscape.

And in so doing, may we truly do you honor as we seek truly and earnestly to be the land where all are free and the home where your followers are brave in good doing.

Amen.