

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park

1336 S. Villa Avenue

Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 833-7262

Website: www.ccvpONLINE.net

E-mail: ccvp1336@yahoo.com

Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, May 15, 2018



The blare of the neighbor's music sends a frisson of irritation through me. I came out here to spend some time meditating and praying. How dare they interrupt my time with their music! Who do they think they are!?!

"Who do I think I am?" is the better question. After all, it's not my outside. It's not as if the outside ever reaches anything approaching real silence. Wind whistles through branches. Cars drive in the distance and nearby. An airplane passes overhead.

Then I remember. I didn't really go outside for the "silence" or to pray, but because it's a beautiful day. After such a cold April, I wanted to be outside. And I

was. The sun shone, the warm air surrounded me. What is a little music to that? I let a small annoyance overwhelm all the ways I experienced God's beauty in that moment. I didn't like the music playing; yet, why should I let one thing blind me to what God is doing?

Too often we let annoyances consume our attention. These small, or even large, negatives cry for attention and we give it to them. We let our vision narrow onto that issue until it seems to define everything else rather than be one small thread of the large tapestry of our lives. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't pay attention to those things, but they don't need to define us.

We, as a community, currently face a number of issues that feel difficult and that require our work and our attention. We need to find a new space sharing partner and money is tight until we do. We need to do some sprucing up of the parsonage and that requires our labor. But, we shouldn't forget the fullness of what God is doing in our midst. We can't let technical issues define our ministry.

We are doing amazing work of God in this place. We are serving hundreds every month through our food pantry. We welcomed neighbors through our doors to enjoy and support the work of local crafters. We partner with other congregations to help local homeowners. We learn together, growing deeply into our faith. We nurture one another. We explore new ways to think about and name God and how that can change our perspective on everything. God is our lifestyle. We put on a God of mystery who loves us as a parent, who struggles joyously to bring us into new life. That is what defines us, everything else are just threads in the beautiful tapestry of our life together.

Laura

All-Church Garage Sale & Bake Sale – Saturday, June 2

Do you have former treasures? Bring them to CCVP for the Garage Sale that will be held at the church on Saturday, June 2. If you can wait until the week of May 27 to bring your items, we will have tables set up and labeled by categories. If you have things that must be moved before that, please contact Betty Prorak and she will help you find a place to drop things off. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex for help needed on June 2 as well as for set up during that week. Bakers are also needed for the Bake Sale that will go on during the Garage Sale.



May Ministry Gathering This Sunday

You are invited! On May 20, after worship, you are invited to our 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 be reflecting on our call to radical welcome as articulated in the Design.

We recognize that the essence of building community, of being in relationship with one another through the Spirit, requires that we do the work to which we are called with compassion, creating a space for all to share the radical welcome that we have received through Christ. We strive to answer God's call to build community inside and outside our walls, being "imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us." (Eph. 5:1-2)

We will hear how we are already answering this call and prayerfully discuss new ways God might be calling us to display this radical welcome. 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 potluck. Everyone is welcome to attend.

April Food Pantry Stats
162 Households Served
686 People Served

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the end of this month. Please sign up by May 27. 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, July 1. 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.

Foresight News Deadlines

Yes, I know that I said the May Foresight would be published on May 8, but good weather in Michigan and southern Ontario took me on the road again, so here is the May Foresight on the 15th.

In June, the Foresight will be published a week early because of other travel plans. The news deadline will be 11:00am on Monday, June 4.

Betty Prorak

Choir News



The choir will practice on May 21 to sing during worship on June 3. 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)

Love Your Neighbor Day 2018 – Mark Your Calendars!

Plans are in the works for the 4th annual Love Your Neighbor Day that will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Calvary United Methodist in Villa Park and St. John's Lutheran in Lombard are participating in the planning of 2018 Love Your Neighbor Day and more area churches have indicated interest in participating this year.



We will be seeking homeowners in the Villa Park and Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with home repairs because of financial or physical limitations, and who could use some help from their neighbors. If you personally know someone who could use our help on LYND, please encourage them to submit an application.

To get work done for our homeowner applicants, we will need plenty of volunteers, so please save this date and plan to volunteer for LYND and invite family and friends to join you. We expect that there would be a wide range of work to be done so all volunteers will not need to have construction skills. We are in need of site supervisors who will be the liaison between the LYND planning committee and the homeowner, will help plan for the work to be done, and will manage a crew on LYND. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Doris Carter.

You can download the homeowner application and volunteer sign-up sheet from the church website or request copies from Doris Carter. The deadline for homeowner applications is August 5, 2018 and the deadline for volunteer sign-up is September 1, 2018, but the earlier that we receive them, the better.

We are looking forward to once again being able to share God's love with our neighbors through this event.

April 30, 2018 Financial Summary

	April	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$10,240.86	\$31,935.00
Budgeted expenses:	\$8,694.56	\$36,285.33

Joys and Concerns



Amy Slinkman started a new job last month. The only downside is the commute, which seems especially long after working from home for so many years.

Amelia Reed celebrated her 3rd birthday on April 18.

Alissa Verson is recovering from a kidney stone removal procedure. While kidney stones are a continued problem for Alissa, this procedure went very well and very quickly.

Former member Milt Potee passed away in Rogers, Arkansas on April 12.

Cari Saatkamp Warner has been between hospitals and Marion Joy Rehab for around three weeks. About noon on Sunday, she was moved into hospice care at Central DuPage Hospital.

Misty Prorak (Steve and Betty's daughter-in-law in San Diego) is struggling with depression.

Tina Marie Amodeo is having increased difficulty getting around because of her MS.

Tina's uncle, Dominic, died April 30. Please keep Dominic's entire family in prayer.

The 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

1 Jane Reid	4 Laura & Joshua Reed
29 Joan Fuller	22 Joan & Carl Kagebein
29 Kailash Naidoo	





Betty and Steve Prorak were in San Diego on three separate trips between March 23 and May 3. The first was a long weekend during their southwest car trip. The second was a week with Brent and family during Brent's spring break, which included a family dinner to celebrate Steve and Betty's 39th anniversary. The last was babysitting Sean's children while Misty was at a training retreat in Arizona and Sean was at work. Sean's son Amós got so used to having Grandma and Grandpa around that he started asking if they would be there to see him play sports this spring and summer.

Greg and Judi Goebel and family enjoyed the beautiful wedding and reception of son, Grant, in Texas recently. Good seeing Brent Prorak and his family in church this Mother's Day.

Good to see Tina Marie Amodeo in church this Sunday. She is looking very well and feeling better.

Minni Philip and daughter Sharon looked so beautiful in Indian dresses preparing to attend a shower after church a week ago.

A Poem

This was written after going to a wake and funeral for my uncle. This one really hurts. The one uncle I really bonded with. – Tina Marie Amodeo

Sunset to Sunrise

My loving Lord please hold me near
As my body shakes with every tear!
My vision is blurred as many tears do fall.
Do you hear my small voice call?

The last two days have meshed into one.
Sunrise to sunset, I could not see the sun.
O dear Lord, where is Your Light?
I cannot see beyond this fight.

I can feel the warmth! I crawl towards the source.
Yet I cannot see; I just feel this force!
O dear Lord, where is Your hand?
I need Your help; please help me stand.

My dear Lord, where did you go?
Help me to see Your path; Please help me to know!
My strength is fading; I am losing hope.
I am not going to make it up this slope.

O my dear Lord, here I am
O where, O where are You dear Lamb?
It was then that I was placed standing at the peak of The Mountain
And I knew that my loving Lord carried me all the way to the Fountain!

Tina Marie Amodeo (Little Tina)

Thank You!

Tina Marie Amodeo thanks the congregation for their prayers for her, especially over the last few weeks.

Thank you to all who helped with the May 5 Arts & Crafts Fair: the organizing committee of Amy Slinkman, Doris Carter and Betty Prorak, plus the many who helped before, during and after the Fair – Dan Carter, Joan Fuller, Heidi Gomez, Ruth Martin, John Martin, Minni Philip, Raja Philip, Laura Reed, Joshua Reed, and Jane Reid.



Pentecost Special Offering
Received on May 20 and 27

From the account of Pentecost in the book of Acts, there is no doubt that the followers of Jesus witnessed and felt something much bigger in their midst. The Divine Presence experienced then continues to be felt today. In the past year, there has been an unprecedented interest and desire of folks to prayerfully take on the arduous task of developing and planting a new church in the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW).

The New Church/Ministries Team (NCMT) of the CCIW is tasked with encouraging and supporting pastor developers and congregations in formation and seeking affiliation. At a recent meeting we choose to fund ANEW Church in Chicago. Rev. Dr. Franshonn Salter has experience and success reaching young black men in the Roseland and nearby neighborhoods. With our support she will create a multi-site and multi-ministry church. There are at least two more pastor developers our team has already met and who have expressed a desire to request a grant to fund a new congregation this year, in addition to two current congregations we are supporting financially.

The NCMT stands on the shoulders of those who have brought the region and the team to this point. We are grateful for the past support. However, we will need your help to nurture all of these fledging Disciple communities into existence. Contributing to the Pentecost Offering helps. I did.

Rev. Jeff Zimmerman
CCIW Minister for New Church/Ministry

A Remembrance Tidbit of CCVP

In the early days of our church, there were no pews in the sanctuary. We used folding chairs which could be moved for other activities. Our church choir which had around 20 men and women was led by Bob Dolan, who both directed the group and played the organ. He was very creative and loved coming up with social events, mainly for choir members, but one time he decided to do something for the church. Have an Italian Night dinner and entertainment. The choir was to decorate the sanctuary and generally plan everything including the entertainment. When I got to the church to help with decorating, so much had already been done, it almost took my breath away. Joe Cook was on a very long ladder hanging wide crepe paper across the top of the ceiling going from front to back! What a job! The tables were set up with red and white checked cloths, a candle in the middle of each one. One of our members, Ann Smalley, had mentioned there were a lot of small fir trees in a field near her, and wouldn't that be nice to give a feeling of eating out under the stars? Well, much to my surprise, there were trees along both the east and west walls with Italian lights glittering away - beautiful. During and after the dinner, spaghetti, what else, the guests were entertained. In the middle of the meal there was a loud crash from the kitchen, trays and dishes falling to the floor, and out comes the Chef's "helper" running through the room, with the Italian Chef (Bob Boostrom) chasing him with a meat cleaver shouting very angrily at the "fool's" carelessness. Good for a laugh. The choir sang and did small acts, and everyone had a wonderful evening. One of the "highlights" of the evening was when Betty Bohl's skirt began to slip and fall down, something she had not planned. The choir was in costumes appropriate for the event.

Jane Reid