

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, October 8, 2024



Dear Friends,

Well, fall is here and soon the weather will turn cool and eventually cold, but it has been a long dry spell this summer and fall! Fortunately, around Christian Church of Villa Park, the summer harvest has been great!

In late July and early August, Christi and I, along with Doris and Dan Carter traveled to Costa Rica for a mission trip where we helped build two houses, made new friends, and learned how Costa Rica families worship, the food they eat, and a little about their culture. What a wonderful trip it was. Thank you to those who donated to buy the material for those houses!

Then in September, CCVP sponsored their tenth annual Love Your Neighbor Day (LYND), with over 150 people helping 33 homeowners in our surrounding community to repair, patch, build, and perform much needed yardwork for those not able to do it themselves. As I sat with many of these folks, they expressed so much gratitude and appreciation for our service to them. You truly have made a difference in our community!

Just this weekend, October 6, I had the privilege to participate in a 5K CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), with some of you as we raised money to end hunger one step at a time. Again, CCVP is engaged in serving our community.

Every Wednesday, we help feed an average of 55-60 families in our community through our food pantry. I am often asked to pray with those passing through our parking lot. It has been a humbling experience to get to know so many people and see some of them become involved in our church by assisting with the food pantry or even attending worship on Sunday!

In the 28th chapter of Matthew, Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all nations”. He never said anything about church growth. I suspect church growth is a byproduct of making disciples and serving others, not a goal. More on that subject to come soon. In the meantime, I covet your prayers as we continue to serve God and others. I am blessed to serve as your pastor!

[Jesus said,] “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” - John 13:34b (NRSVUE)
Pastor Dave

We Walked! (You Can Still Give)

Dan Carter, Tina Amodeo, Betty Prorak, and Pastor Dave were our CROP Hunger Walk team on October 6. To date, the team raised \$887 to fight hunger locally, nationally, and internationally. Our Disciples Food Pantry receives some of the local funds which help cover the cost of food from Northern Illinois Food Bank.

CROP (through Church World Service) and the Disciples’ Week of Compassion are among the best organizations to send donations to help hurricane Helene relief efforts. You can give through the offering on Sunday or online at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/christian-church-of-villa-park>

and/or <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/>



Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible study meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September through May.
All ages are invited to gather together for an opening activity and to hear the Bible story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook Live

10th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day



The 10th annual Love Your Neighbor Day 2024 on September 21, 2024 was a success thanks to the support, prayer and participation of CCVP and other churches in Lombard and Villa Park. Over 150 volunteers came out for LYND 2024, and we were able to help a total of 33 homeowners in the Lombard/Villa Park area (28 on September 21 and 5 is before or after). This is more homeowners that we have ever been able to help before. Check out our Love Your Neighbor Day or the church's Facebook page to see photos from the day.

The work that was done this year included painting (including an entire garage), replacing windows, rebuilding rotten decks and stairs to make them safe and usable, replacing rotten soffit and fascia, plumbing work, replacing screens, washing windows and other small repairs. This is in addition to all of the yard clean up and weeding and trimming of bushes and trees. We left every home in better shape than when we arrived.

However, the impact of LYND goes well beyond the actual work done on the homes. Our homeowners expressed their gratitude for the blessing of having volunteers to help them out with jobs they were unable to do themselves. The volunteers shared God's love not only by their work, but also by listening and talking with the homeowners. Many groups shared lunch with their homeowners. Our Pastor Dave made it to a good number of our worksites to visit with the homeowners and the volunteers, which was an added blessing.

We were again able to cover the cost of materials and supplies needed for doing the needed work for our homeowners with donated funds. We were also able to provide breakfast treats for our volunteers and lunches for our volunteers and homeowners with the contributions made by local businesses, including Chick-fil-A in Elmhurst, Mike's Meat Market, Kuppies Bakery, McDonald's in Villa Park, and Lilac Bakery in Lombard (thanks to the efforts of Ruth Martin in soliciting these contributions!). The Village of Lombard donated the use of a dumpster, and Waste Management picked up yard waste for our Lombard homeowners for free. Once again, we received a \$2,000 grant from the Village of Villa Park. At the last minute, we received the use of another larger dumpster from an anonymous donor.

Love Your Neighbor Day continues to be a vital ministry for CCVP which is embraced by the community. Thanks to CCVP members Dan Carter and Ruth Martin who served on the Planning Team with me, to Betty Prorak and Justin Verson who served as team leaders, to volunteers Joan Fuller, Christi Holston, Minni Philip, Raja Philip, Sharon Philip and Alissa Verson, and to Heidi for mapping out the lunch delivery routes. We will be deciding on the date for the 11th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day at our LYND wrap up meeting in November. (See some photos from LYND on the next page.)

This year, in celebration of our 10th anniversary, we had t-shirts made. If anyone would like to purchase a LYND t-shirt for \$20, contact Doris Carter.

Foresight News Deadline

The next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on January 14, 2025 with a news deadline of 11am on January 13. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at BLProrak@yahoo.com or mail it to the church.



Alissa Verson, Pastor Dave, Doris Carter, & Freya Verson at the sign in table



Lots of volunteers!



Acknowledging organizers and donors; sending forth the volunteers



Dan Carter and team (to the right of Dan is the Villa Park Village President, Nick Cuzzone)



Raja Phillip, Alissa Verson, and team with their yard work



Betty Prorak and Christi Holston taking a break from weeding



Sharon Philip, Minni Philip, and Ruth Martin taking a break between breakfast and lunch set ups

Looking Ahead....

- October is Pastor Appreciation month.
- Wednesday, October 9, 7:00pm: Stewardship Council meeting
- Wednesday, November 6, 7:00pm: Love Your Neighbor Day wrap up meeting
- Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18: Virtual Joint Regional Assembly (register by October 10 to attend as a voting representative for CCVP: see details at the bottom of page 5)
- Sundays November 17 and 24: Thanksgiving Special Offering
- Sundays December 15 and 22: Christmas Special Offering
- Tuesday, December 24, 7:00pm: Christmas Eve worship service

Disciples Food Pantry

July Stats:
202 Households served
715 People served

August Stats:
207 Households served
772 People served

September Stats:
215 Households served
769 People served

The Pantry is open every Wednesday 9:30-11:30am (except Christmas Day).
Clients enter from Villa Avenue and receive food by the parking lot door.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- Dave and Christi Holston, Doris and Dan Carter, and other mission team members sweated a lot, but accomplished the goal of building two homes for families in need of safe, dry and secure dwellings in Costa Rica in July.
- We give thanks for the individuals who have preached in Dave's absence: Pastor Ruth Sutter, Rev. Rick Hamilton (Interim Regional Minister), and Daphne Hayes.
- The Carters, Versons, and Proraks have enjoyed recent vacations abroad and in U.S. National Parks.
- Tina Amodeo was hospitalized for a bit in August and spent some time in rehab, but she is doing much better.
- All of the Pantry volunteers who contracted COVID in August are fully recovered.
- The gathering at the Holstons' home on August 24 was wonderful!
- Love Your Neighbor Day went very well!
- Steve Prorak's sister Sue is making progress. Her leg has healed enough to bear weight, so she is out of her wheelchair (see the prayer list below).
- Jane Reid was very ill with an undiagnosed ailment for several weeks, but has recovered enough to attend worship on September 29.
- There were 23 people present for worship on September 29! (Now that Dave is back, we need a repeat attendance.)
- Dave and Christi Holston enjoyed attending his 55th high school reunion in Kansas.
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!

Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!)
- God's intervention in the life of our congregation. (Refers to Dave's message on October 6 which was heard only by those present in worship as our Facebook Live broadcast failed.)
- Pastor Dave as he mourns the passing of his friend Larry from cancer early in August, plus a cousin-in-law and the granddaughter of another cousin one week in September.
- Pastor Dave's sister Jeannie who has been diagnosed with cancer and has decided not to have it treated.
- Former member Kailash Naidoo as she mourns the passing of her mother in early August.
- Clyda as she grieves the death of her brother.
- Dan and Doris Carter ask for continued prayers for their sister-in-law Lucy Carter.
- Betty and Steve Prorak ask for continued prayers for their brother-in-law John as he adjusts to medications needed for his mental and emotional well-being. Pray for his wife Sue, too, as she had an accident with her horse in mid-August that left her with a broken leg and a shoulder requiring extensive surgery. She has months of therapy ahead for her shoulder.
- Sharon Philip as she seeks a new job.

(prayer list continued on next page)

- Doris Carter as her broken little toe heals.
- Chuck Bohl's son Jeff and family who are among those in North Carolina with no services of any kind. Their home is okay, but has no power.
- The healing/well-being of:
 - Amy Crouch
 - John Martin
 - Ruth Martin
 - Michele Grayson
 - Jayne Hochstetler
 - Tina Amodeo
 - Tina's mother (also named Tina)
 - Tina's father Sam
 - Minni Philip
 - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff
 - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
 - Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120)
 - Jerry Robbins
 - Carol Robbins
 - Diana Robbins (off and on vertigo)
 - Carl Kagebein
 - Pantry clients, especially Kathryn, Joe, and Ken
 - Judy ("the bread lady")
 - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria

The Faithful Hand

In my quietest moments, my breath is lost
 As I feel the fear challenge the hope to be tossed,
 But I hear this whisper that surrounds my being.
 Before my eyes, I ponder what I am seeing.

Do I really see foot prints glow in the light?
 Should I bury my head in that tearful fright?
 Do I dare step closer to verify what I perceive?
 Would I openly share of what I really do believe?

Yes, I shall say; Yes, I will speak.
 I will not shy from Whom I seek.
 For it is with my Lord, my God, that I do stand
 As I continue to reach for His faithful hand.

Tender Sender/T.M.A.
 (Tina Marie Amodeo)

From Sojourners (9/23/24)

Verse of the Day

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Voice of the Day

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away; / Lengthen night and shorten day; / Every leaf speaks bliss to me / Fluttering from the autumn tree.
 - Emily Brontë, "Fall, leaves, fall"

Prayer of the Day

God, as we enter a new season, may we grieve what is lost, but also look forward to what lies ahead. May the falling of the leaves remind us that there is a time for everything and you are in control.



The Christian Church in Michigan and the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin are holding a virtual joint regional assembly on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19. If you wish to attend as a voting delegate for CCVP, please let Pastor Dave know and register by October 10 at <https://cciw.regfox.com/2024-cciw-regional-assembly>.

Our Joint Regional Assembly Business meetings will be Friday Evening for the Intent to Merge resolution vote. (Merging the Christian Church in Michigan and CCIW as one Region.)

Saturday Worship followed by a presentation by Disciples Women, *Domestic Violence: Establishing Safe Sanctuaries*.

Schedule

Fri. Oct. 18th CCIW Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (CDT)

Sat. Oct. 19th Worship and voting results of the business meeting 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (CDT)

Voices of Hope Community Chorus Concerts

Ruth Martin sings with this group and invites you to get ready to groove and sing along at Voices of Hope Community Chorus' electrifying concert, "The Great Ones: A Celebration of American Songwriting!" Jam out to hits by music icons like Cole Porter, the Gershwins, Bob Dylan, Carole King, Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, and more!

Saturday, November 9, 7:30 pm
Glenview Community Church
1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL

Sunday, November 10, 4:00 pm
Pilgrim Congregational Church,
460 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL

Experience a night of pure musical magic while honoring the resilience of breast cancer survivors and those touched by the disease.

Tickets can be purchased online at a reduced price (\$30 at the door; \$25 online):

<https://www.voicesofhopec.org/concerts-and-events/upcoming-concerts/>

September 30, 2024 Financial Summary

	July	August	September	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$5,996.22	\$4,312.34	\$8,410.24	\$59,905.87
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,553.91	\$8,283.95	\$8,507.34	\$69,879.20

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on October 27 (another order will be placed in early January 2025). 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 <https://www.raiseright.com/>, contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed on November 24 to be delivered on December 1. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

November, December and January Celebrations

November 2	John Martin		December 4	Daniella Felix
11	Ken Newton		5	Betty Prorak
15	Steve Prorak			
17	Melanchthon Philip		January 8	Justin Verson
24	Tina Amodeo			



November 19	Heidi Gomez & José Felix
November 26	Carol & Jerry Robbins
December 9	Joan & John Fuller
December 28	Minni & Raja Philip
January 3	Diane & Chuck Bohl
January 9	Doris & Dan Carter

Special Offerings

November 17 and 24: The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.



December 15 and 22: The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries including the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.