
MINISTRY REPORTS

February 27, 2022

Pastor: Laura Jennison Reed

The winter seems to have flown by and also been incredibly slow. We had a wonderful Advent and Christmas season and then moved into a season of being remote again in January. This was tough and involved a lot of disruption. However, it was also wonderful to realize how nimble we have become. I am grateful for all we have created over the last two years that allow us to make these necessary decisions and allow us to include people in worship from wherever they are.

These online moments are one of the primary ways my ministry engages with the larger community. For a variety of reasons, I am rarely at the church other than for worship and so I am no longer seeing members of the community who come to the food pantry. Many of the groups I have been a part of are also no longer meeting. I do lead the region's service and mission committee and I hope to engage in the broader community through this committee's work. Also, through CCVP 20/20 I am part of early conversations with DuPage United and exploring if our ministries might work together.

If there were no constraints, I would love to have a ministry partner to focus on community engagement. My gifts and time constraints do not help me to thrive in that aspect of ministry, but I think it is one that could be of enormous benefit to the work of this church.

CCVP 20/20: written by Betty Prorak

Since the Ministry Gathering in November, CCVP 20/20 has been exploring possible paths for our congregation to be involved in the wider community beyond what we already do through the Disciples Food Pantry and Love Your Neighbor Day. As part of that exploration, the members of CCVP 20/20 have started 1-on-1 conversations with members and friends of the church to learn what community needs they would like to see addressed.

If there were no constraints, CCVP 20/20 dreams of our small, but mighty church becoming a larger force for positive change in the community, meeting the varied needs "of the least of these." We would not strive to do this alone, but would work with other community groups that are also trying to help those in need.

Disciples Food Pantry: written by Joan Fuller

Here we find ourselves almost 2 months into 2022 and the food pantry is in full swing. We are continuing to serve our clients via drive through service but hope that eventually we will be able to invite folks into the pantry to shop for themselves.

The food pantry had many generous gifts during the holidays that enables us to purchase what we need to serve all of DuPage and whoever finds us and needs help. Since COVID began, we made a decision to serve anyone from anywhere as many times as they need. We have an abundance of food coming from many sources every week and this allows us to serve more people.

Besides having a group of volunteers from all over the area, we have welcomed two volunteers who are working off hours of service given from the court system. We have all become fast friends and work well together. New Life Bible Church still supports us with two members volunteering weekly.

We've had some sad news in the past few months. One of our volunteers Sue passed and volunteer Scott lost his father. Pantry and church members attended funeral service for Sue and sent flowers to Scotts dad service in southern Ill. Volunteer Cleo had a small mass removed, a round of chemo and is back working with us and healthy and happy.

We continue to glean the area where we are invited and look forward to summer where we can open the doors and get tables outside filled with fresh veg. and other donations.

Deacons: written by Heidi Gomez

I thought that our jobs as deacons had become obsolete, however, I was proven wrong by a fellow deacon that we are still as useful as ever. In the church we have Deacons in training and sometimes deacons step in when the little ones are not there. When not helping during service, deacons help in the food pantry, engaging with all the clients that come and go. Another deacon suggested that we could also be in charge of cleaning the pantry and worship space as it needs to be cleaned periodically. When the pandemic started I noticed people reaching out to each other just to check in and make sure all was ok with them. I think that would be a really good practice to continue as deacons.

Elders: written by John Martin

The Elders have been meeting monthly. We have had three objectives in the last quarter. We have been focusing on providing support to ourselves as individuals and as elders. We have worked with Rev. Reed to more fully integrate the Elders Message and Prayer with the

meaning of communion. Finally, we remain at the service of members who face difficulties, especially during this time of COVID. We plan to find ways to work more closely with the Deacons, both in and out of worship. We also ask you to remember that we are available, even if only for prayer, whenever you feel the need for a little extra in your life.

Love Your Neighbor Day: written by Doris Carter

In April, we will begin planning for Love Your Neighbor Day 2022, which will take place on September 17, 2022. This ministry extends into the community through the work that we do for our homeowners in Lombard and Villa Park, the other churches that participate and the local governments and local businesses that support it. My dream for this program that it can continue to grow and expand in the number of homeowners helped and the number of volunteers participating, which also means planning committee members continuing to expand their roles in the planning process. For our congregation, my dream is that we can get re-energized about this ministry. I recall from last year the enthusiasm that the churches joining LYND for the first time had about participating and helping our neighbors.

Stewardship Council: written by Doris Carter

The Stewardship Council has focused for a number of months on the follow up work after the sale of the building, including building out our new dedicated space, working through matters with New Life and adjusting to no longer being the building owner, and investing the funds from the sale. Recently, the Stewardship Council invested proceeds from the sale of the church building with Christian Church Foundation, Inc. which is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that provides investment services to Disciples churches and others. Investing this money will allow for growth on the funds until the time comes that we need to use them.

The Stewardship Council had to address the resignation of Eric Hays after a number of years of dedicated service and locating a replacement for him. Through our contact at Elmhurst University, we were introduced to Dan Vanzeeland and he was hired a few weeks ago. We welcome Dan and look forward to working with him.

While the Stewardship Council's responsibilities principally relate to the inner workings of the church, we encourage and support ministries that reach out into the community. We look forward to working with other groups within the congregation to determine where God is leading us and to determine what our facility needs may be in the future, whether it is remaining in our current building or seeking another location as needed to fulfill our dreams for ministry.