

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Stepping into the Unknown...



I know it's still early August, but the new school year is very much on my mind. We are now a mere three weeks away from the beginning of kindergarten. It is a big step, a big change, and I'm struggling. This isn't a "my baby is getting so big" struggle. This is a struggle with the unknown. Obviously, school was always going to be different than I remembered it. We're in a different location than where I grew up; education is constantly evolving. But there were some things I was expecting as constants. Meet the teacher and explore a new school

building. Pack lunches and take the bus. New friends to play with and schedules to manage.

But that's not what we're getting this year. This year, everything is different. Or at least it feels that way. It feels more like stepping into a complete unknown without a decent map than navigating old trails that have wandered slightly from where I remembered. There will still be a new teacher, but I'm not sure when or how we will meet them. There will be no new building to explore and, while I'll still have to make lunches, I won't pack them any farther than the dining room table. Because this year, school is starting at home and in daycare centers but not in a physical classroom. I'm not sure what to expect in the coming months and it leaves me feeling off-kilter.

I feel the same discombobulation as we look to welcome people back into the sanctuary for worship. It will be wonderful to preach to faces instead of a camera, but it won't be the same. Our worship service won't suddenly return to how it was in February. There will be fewer people and the camera will still be there. We won't be singing; our faces will be covered. While we join spiritually around the Table, we will physically remain in our seats, sharing in the spirituality of the meal but not in the actual food. This isn't a return to worship as it was. Like the school year, this new season feels unknown.

As I step into these new paths, I feel joy and sadness. I am excited for what is to come and sad at what is lost in this new way of being. I am joyful for my child to start school and learn and grow and sad that she can't fully experience the community she will be building. I feel the joy of physically worshipping with others and the loss of the communal song that has always been such a vital part of my worshiping life. I am so excited to see people, to know actual presence not mitigated through a screen and I am anxious at how we balance our worship life and our community's health and safety.

Every direction we turn we are confronted with so many unknowns. Things we haven't been told yet. Things we simply cannot know until the time is upon us. How will we make everything work? What if things get worse? What if things get better? We step into the unknown in faith. We trust in God. We cannot know everything so we take what we do know and do our best with it. Then we lift our hearts and eyes to God and acknowledge God with us as we step forward.

Laura

Disciples Food Pantry

July Stats:

99 Households served

332 People served

The Pantry is open every
Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.

Clients enter from Villa Avenue and
receive food by the parking lot door.

Walkers Needed!

The annual Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk is going virtual this year.

Instead of one big group of people gathering to walk together, each team will set their own course. CCVP's walk will start from the church parking lot at 11:30am on Sunday, October 4.

Sign up to be a walker at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lombardi/Team/View/131324/Christian-Church-of-Villa-Park>

Love Your Neighbor Day – September 19, 2020



The Christian Church of Villa Park, St. John's Lutheran Church in Lombard and other area churches will be working together again this year to host the 6th annual Love Your Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 19, 2020 (rain date September 26, 2020). On Love Your Neighbor Day 2019 over 90 volunteers provided assistance to 24 homeowners.

Applications are now being accepted from homeowners in the Villa Park/Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with work around their homes because of financial or physical limitations and who could benefit from a group of people volunteering at their home for a day. We have already received 15 homeowner applications!

This year, all work will be in the yard or on the exterior in the home to protect both the homeowner and the volunteers. The work will be done by small groups of volunteers. Homeowners can rest assured that no one will be going into their home and all volunteers will be practicing social distancing. If you or someone you know could use help from your neighbors, you are encouraged to apply now. Applications and more information can be obtained on the church website at www.ccvponline.net, by sending an e-mail to loveyourneighbor15@yahoo.com, or by leaving a voice mail message at church requesting that an application be mailed to you. The deadline for submitting homeowner applications is August 28, 2020.

It is not too early to sign-up to be a volunteer for LYND 2020. This year, volunteers will have the option of signing up either as individuals to be assigned to a team or as a small group of people who are comfortable working together. You can also obtain volunteer sign-up sheets on the church website, by e-mailing the above address or leaving a message at church. A few changes have been made in 2020 for safety reasons. We will not meet together at CCVP to kick off the day, but instead teams will go directly to their assigned job sites. Lunches will not be served and volunteers will be encouraged to bring their own lunches. The deadline for submitting volunteer sign-up sheets is September 5, 2020. We hope you can volunteer and encourage family or friends to join you.

Phase Three of Re-Opening Guidelines (Worship in Building) Begins September 6, 2020

**Prepared by CCVP Stewardship Council;
Subject to Change based on Government Order and Health Department Guidelines**

The building will be open for in-person worship on Sunday mornings *following the guidelines listed below* (up to 50 people). However, online worship will continue with the worship service conducted in the sanctuary being available on Facebook Live.

New Life will be given the opportunity to also worship in-person following the same guidelines that CCVP will be following.

Church meetings (i.e., Stewardship Council, Elders, Worship Committee) and Sunday School may happen electronically via Zoom or telephone conference, or with the consent of all involved, an in-person meeting could be conducted outdoors or indoors in the Narthex seated 6 feet apart and if there are less than 10 people.

Signs will be posted throughout the church to remind people to follow the guidelines of the CDC and/or IL Department of Health.

During Phase Three, outside anonymous groups may be meeting in the building during the week as long as they have agreed to comply with specified guidelines. The Disciples Food Pantry will continue to operate as a drive through pantry.

All individuals who might be coming into the building for worship or a meeting are asked to:

- stay home if you are not feeling well or have a fever over 100
- stay home if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19
- wear a mask and practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet apart) while in the building
- wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer as needed
- immediately notify the church if you have been in the building and subsequently test positive for COVID-19 and advise the dates and times you were in the building recently.

The following areas of the building are still not to be used and will not be cleaned during Phase Three: Kitchen, nursery, library (except food pantry volunteers will use this restroom and that will be cleaned) and choir room.

Guidelines and procedure that must be followed for coming into the building for Sunday morning worship:

One person will be assigned at the door from the parking lot and one person in the narthex to give direction to people coming to attend worship, including reinforcement of safety precautions and directions for seating.

Pews will be marked off in advance to show where seating is permitted.

All coming into the building to attend worship must wear masks before, during and after the service (except those leading the service can remove masks for their portions of the service).

Social distancing must be practiced, staying at least 6 feet apart from others (except for members of your household). When entering the building, go directly to the sanctuary and find seating. There will be no congregating in the hall or narthex.

Attendees will spread out in the sanctuary space with one family unit per pew and empty pews in between. Pews will be marked if they can be used or are not to be used.

Members in attendance will be noted and visitors will be required to provide their contact information – name, address, telephone number and e-mail – if case any COVID-19 notifications must be made due to a person that tested positive having been in the building recently.

Changes in worship:

- Bulletins will not be used.
- There will be no passing of the peace.
- There will be no singing during worship per health department recommendations.
- Individual communion packets will be provided for people to pick up when entering the sanctuary (or members can bring their own communion supplies).
- Collection plates will not be passed. There will be a place to drop off offerings as people enter the sanctuary.

Attendees are to leave the building immediately after worship with no congregating, with family units taking turns exiting the sanctuary from back to front. CCVP members will be asked to leave through the front door if New Life is worshipping in the building to allow CCVP members to exit and New Life members to enter without having to pass each other in the halls. New Life will be asked to not come into the building until 11:15 to give CCVP time to clean.

The two main bathrooms will be open and available, but should be used by only one person at a time.

Volunteers will disinfect surfaces and equipment touched in the sanctuary and the main bathrooms following the service. A schedule will be set up of members who will be attending in-person worship and who are willing to disinfect. Supplies will be made available.

Tuesday and Thursday Gatherings

On Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 7:30pm you can join others from CCVP online or by phone through Zoom meetings. If you are interested in participating and have not received the emails with the connecting information, please email the church to request the Zoom meeting specifics or call Betty Prorak at 847-977-0797 and she will give you the call-in information.

Fund-raising with Gift Cards, Amazon



The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due Sunday, September 6. 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.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the end of July. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by September 27 for them to be delivered by October 4. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you do, a portion of your purchase price for qualifying items can come to the Christian Church of Villa Park by choosing the church as your recipient in their AmazonSmile program. It doesn't cost you anything extra to participate; it just shares the profit with a charity of your choice. If you have any questions, ask Betty Prorak.



July 31, 2020 Financial Summary

	July	YTD
Income for budget items:	\$9,528.76	\$62,322.85
Budgeted expenses:	\$9,226.16	\$60,456.33

Thank you for your faithful giving! If you are able, please continue to give to the work of the church by mailing a check to the church or by giving online at

<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/4498>

Questions? Contact Betty Prorak at 847-977-0797 or BLProrak@yahoo.com

Joys and Thanksgivings



The Reed family gives thanks for the wonderful outdoors and being able to go camping. It is a joy - especially to Chuck Bohl, who knows her from Pantry - that Kathleen Goscinski has survived cancer and it is currently in remission.

The Prorak family is thankful for time together and for the majesty of God's creation.

Joan Fuller is joyful to be done with the walker and driving restrictions.

We give thanks for the abundance of food we have in our lives, especially tacos! (Amelia Reed)

Joan Fuller's cousin Carol is recovering well from COVID-19.

The joy of kindness that we can show and that we can receive.

Diane and Chuck Bohl both recently had their medical annual exams. The blood tests for both showed they have COVID-19 antibodies, meaning they both had the virus. Chuck had the worst "cold" of my life on the cruise ship, that he guesses wasn't a "cold." Diane felt she lost her sense of taste/smell for a period. No one wants to have COVID-19, but Chuck and Diane are thankful and grateful that for them it was neither serious or life threatening, and that is a 'Joy' to Chuck.

Please Pray...



For continued healing and strength as Joan Fuller recovers from knee surgery.
For Minni Philip for pain she is experiencing, especially in her feet.
For safe travels for the Reed family as they visit Joshua's family.
For people in the hospital and their family and friends.
For Joan Fuller's great niece Danielle who is pregnant with twins in the hospital.

For school children and their parents as they figure out how to "do school" this fall.

For Betty Prorak's friend, Cyndi, who tested positive for COVID-19 10 days ago. Cyndi is home and doing better, but still has a ways to go.

For Jeanne, Sweetie, and Grace (friends of Tina Amodeo).

For Tina Amodeo's mom who just came home from the hospital with multiple health issues.

For Laura Reed as she continues her work as our Pastor.

For our communities and our nation to find equitable solutions to deep seated issues.

September Birthdays



3 Doris Carter
13 Raja Philip
18 James Schultz



Laura, Joshua, and Amelia Reed enjoyed backpacking and camping for two nights in Door County last week.

Betty and Steve Prorak along with Brent's and Sean's families had a wonderful week together in a rental house in Estes Park, Colorado. They visited Rocky Mountain National Park from there.

Heather Smith has started a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for a larger worship space for her congregation: www.gofundme.com/f/3v7tp-church-ministry

Jane Reid signed up for a 10-week spiritual study that she has really enjoyed.

Ken Newton is doing well. A few staff and residents at his complex have had the virus, but are recovering nicely. He and Clyde Kregger regularly get together for lunch.

What Have You Been Up To?

What have you done to keep yourself busy this summer? Send your story – even a sentence or two – to Betty Prorak at BLProrak@yahoo.com or mail it to the church by September 4 to be included in the next Foresight.