

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 51

March 7, 2021

Message from the Pastor

Dear Church,

This week, while reading the Lenten devotional *Go to Jerusalem* by Mary Alice Mulligan, I was introduced to a new, useful metaphor for describing the journey of faith represented at Lent. The devotional was on a reading from John 10: 1-10. In this verse Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees, and he describes himself as “the gate for the sheep.” In this metaphor, we are sheep, milling about aimlessly looking for someone to follow. Jesus calls us to come and enter a new life, and to get to this new life we must enter through him, the gate. Other’s who would try to go around or over the gate rather than through it, are compared to robbers and thieves. These are not shepherds, and they would lead us to a false purpose. There are more than just obstacles to overcome on the road to Jerusalem. There are also gates and other things that we must pass through.

This reminds me of a story/song from when I was young. Perhaps some of you have shared it with children in your life as well. It is called “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt.” In this story, that is meant to be sung and acted out, there are some people going on a bear hunt. However, on this hunt they come across several obstacles. First, some tall grass. Then, a river. Then, some mud puddles, and so on it goes. Each time the participants of the bear hunt repeat the phrase “We can’t go over it/We can’t go under it/Oh no/We’ve got to go through it.” So, they do, and each time there is a different sound effect and hand motion to go along with it.

As we walk this road and live this life of faith that Jesus exemplifies for us, there are obstacles that can get in our way. “Oh no! I have to share with a stranger.” “Oh no! I must love my annoying neighbor.” “Oh no! I must sacrifice for the good of the less fortunate!” “Oh no! Someone doesn’t agree with my beliefs.” Such a life is difficult. Still, to create the kingdom of God, we can’t go over it, we can’t go under it. We have to go through it.

Standing at the Gate with you,

Zach

Volunteers Needed for Church Cleaning

Now that the church has reopened for in person worship it could use a good cleaning. If you have some time on your hands and could help clean the sanctuary and the narthex and the front entrances, please let Pastor Zach know. This cleaning would involve wiping down pews, vacuuming, dusting, etc. and would only focus on the areas of the church where the most people spend time. Any help is appreciated. Thank you.

Sunday Worship

This week’s worship will be in-person following our standard social distancing protocols. On Sunday afternoon the worship recording will be put out virtually for access via the church’s [Facebook page](#) and the [church website’s worship page](#). In addition, Sunday morning the church service can be listened to live on the radio around Carlock by tuning your radio to 105.9FM at 10:00AM.

Rev. Zach Martin
(217)-358-6593
zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com

Clayton Summers
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Crew and Cohort

Crew and Cohort will continue this Wednesday, Mar. 10th, 2021 with Crew (K-5th) at 6-7PM and Cohort (6th-12th) at 7:30-8:30PM. We will spend our time together learning how to tell the story of Christ with how we live our lives. To join, please use this [link](#). Feel free to reach out with any questions to Clayton Summers. **Meeting ID: 882 2616 0610 Passcode: 233001**

Partners in Healing: Acute Rehab Unit

In 2021, Carlock Christian Church will be taking part in the Partners in Healing initiative with Carle BroMenn Hospital. As part of this program different faith communities in the area are assigned a hospital medical unit to lift up in prayer. These are prayers of support, healing, and well-being. In return the Chaplains and staff of the Spiritual Care department at BroMenn will lift up our church in prayer as well. This year we have been assigned the Acute Rehab Unit. This is a department in the hospital that provides care for patients needing extensive rehabilitation from head, spine, and other traumatic injuries and illnesses. Please keep these people, and the staff that cares for them, in your prayers.

Communion

If you would like to receive communion from the church at this time, please contact Sue Larkin or Pastor Zach Martin.

Church Phones

An update concerning phone service at Carlock Christian Church: We are currently using an answering service for the phone in the church office. So, if you call the church at (309)-376-2081 you will be prompted to leave a message. Pastor Zach will then be notified by text message on his cell phone. If you need to speak to Pastor Zach the most direct way is to call him on his cell phone. The number is (217)-358-6593. Also, if Pastor Zach is attempting to call you this is the number you will see on caller i.d. Thank you.

Food Pantry

For the month of February, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting meat for the food pantry. Please bring your meat (or other food donations) to the church building and place them in the tubs in the lower narthex or take them directly to the food pantry in Danvers. The Carlock-Danvers Food Pantry provides essential food for anyone in the community who is needs a meal. Whether you are looking to help out or are in need of food, for the most recent updates, please check their [Facebook](#) page. To give a monetary donate to the Carlock-Danvers Food Pantry, a check can be sent to the following address:

First Presbyterian Church of Danvers
201 E. Main St., Danvers, IL 61732
Memo: Food Pantry

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Joys and Concerns

As a community of Christians, we find meaning in prayer and praying for our community. Below is our current list of prayer concerns and joys. Each concern will be kept on the list for four weeks unless requested again. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with our community of faith, we ask you to email [Pastor Zach](mailto:pastor.zach@carlockchurch.org) so it can be added to the next week's Weekly Update.

- Please keep in prayer those standing up against racism and other interlocking injustices
- Please keep in prayer all those suffering from Covid19 and its effects: health, mental, emotional, spiritual, and economic
- Please keep in prayer all teachers, faculty, staff, students, and parents facilitating school during the pandemic
- Please keep in prayer Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Carle BroMenn Medical Center
- We keep in prayer Todd, a member of Dorothy L.'s family who is going through treatment for cancer
- We keep in prayer Mary Ellen Miller's daughter-in-law Cindy (Sam) as she plans for a stem cell transplant in March
- We keep in prayer Aiden who broke both his feet recently
- We keep in prayer Betty H. as she deals with cancer
- We keep in prayer Richard H. as his dementia worsens
- We keep in prayer Lou Daniel's brother Jim
- We keep in prayer Jeanette K.'s friend Karen Walters
- We keep in prayer Marshall Elkin's friend Rick
- We keep in prayer Crystal Larkin's father and his family after the death of his mother-in-law
- We keep in prayer Dorothy L. who is facing some health concerns
- We keep in prayer Linda's brother who is sick

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mar. 16th – Katelynn Clement

Mar. 17th – Deb Clement

Mar. 22nd – Lacie Walk

Mar. 27th – Jennifer Reece

Mar. 28th – Marjorie Scott

Mar. 31st – Marshal & Lil Elkin's Anniv.

Missional Opportunities

The mission of a church can be expressed in a plethora of ways, but perhaps a common definition is that of being the body of Christ in the world. With this in mind, here are some opportunities to be the body of Christ in the world.

- Volunteering with the [Midwest Food Bank](#)*
- Eligible donors donating blood with the [American Red Cross](#)
- Make masks to give to those in need following an [online guide](#)

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*Suggested only if you are in the lower risk category at this time – under 60 and without underlying health conditions

Giving

Financial tithes and offerings can be mailed to the church's P.O. Pox Address to continue to help support the ministries of the church. Even when separated by physical distance, we are still reaching out to be the body of Christ in our community. Everyone who has given back to God during the pandemic in whatever form, you are furthering the work of God's reign.

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Links

All the links from each week's Weekly Update will now appear in a section at the end of the document for your convenience:

Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/cccdoc1/>

Church Website Worship Page: <http://carlockchristianchurch.org/worship/>

Food Pantry Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Danverscarlockcommunityfoodpantry/>

Crew and Cohort Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88226160610?pwd=L21qck84OXoreDVVRGt3QlB0Q2R4Zz09>

Midwest Food Bank: <https://www.midwestfoodbank.org/>

Find a Blood Drive: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

CDC Mask Making Guide: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Chalice Face Masks: http://store.disciples.org/disciples_of_christ/shop/product-detail/15155699

Ministry Across Generations Faith at Home Resources:

<https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/untitled-cdwm>

Mardi Gras Celebration: <https://cciwdisciples.org/portfolio/mardi-gras-you-are-not-alone/>

Email Rev. Zach Martin: <mailto:zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com>

Email Clayton Summers: <mailto:clayton.wwjd@gmail.com>

As always, we ask everyone continue to stay in touch, to reach out to each other and the church staff should needs arise, and to stay safe.

Blessings

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