

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 55

April 4, 2021

Message from the Pastor

Dear Church,

A couple Easters ago, I had to preach at a sunrise service. As I thought back to that morning, all I could think was, “Thank goodness I don’t have to do that this year!” Sunrise services can be a special tradition for those who enjoy them, but they are not for everybody. I am not usually a morning person, but when I am up at a pre-dawn hour what strikes me is the quiet. It is so quiet in the morning before everybody’s day has started. Maybe that is why some people find it a good time to get work done. Something else I always like about those early morning hours is the sense of anticipation that I feel, because of the stillness and the quiet. A strange anticipation that something might be different when the sun comes up, and when I am already up, I feel prepared to take on that challenge.

As I reflected on this, I realized that is usually where we find ourselves on Easter morning, whether it’s at sunrise or a little later. We are in anticipation of something new. We have been through the night, that period after Good Friday, when Christ died, and before Easter morning, when we will celebrate the resurrection of the Risen Lord. The morning can be a liminal time. In between the lingering sadness and melancholy of Good Friday and just on the edge of the triumph and celebration of the Resurrection. It is an opportunity to reflect on the momentousness of the resurrection. That’s why we come to church on Easter morning.

In all this excitement, though, let’s not forget about those who are not morning people. People who find it difficult to rise and meet the morning. Perhaps because they are physically unable. Or maybe they are depressed or grieving, and so they are emotionally unable. Maybe they worked a late shift at their second job and need more sleep. Whatever the reason sometimes the morning can be hard to face.

Luckily, we don’t have to be morning people to be resurrection people. Because resurrection will find us even in our darkness, just as it found Mary Magdalene and the other women who came to Jesus’ tomb that morning. They got up that morning and went to the tomb, they came with their grief, they came to carry out the tasks of mourning and that is where they found the stone rolled away, that is where they first heard the news that Jesus was risen again. So, they were able to bring the news to the Eleven, the disciples who had not come out that morning. So, whether you are not a morning person, or you are a person in mourning, the Resurrection will find you. That is the power of resurrection – its certainty. Like death, taxes, or a sunrise, resurrection will come. It will come to show us that neither death and taxes or violence and pain or anything else have the last word.

Happy Easter,

Zach

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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.

Illinois Covid-19 Vaccine Appointment Hotline

The state of Illinois has set up a vaccine hotline to assist in getting Covid-19 vaccine appointments for people who are eligible as an alternative to the online only sign-up. More information can be found [here](#) and the vaccine hotline is (833) 621-1284.

New Church Email

The church has a new email address! To assist in making a more centralized online presence, carlockdoc@gmail.com will be the email address associated with the weekly update, a Carlock Christian Church YouTube channel where all our worship services will live, and other online accounts. Nothing should change for reaching our staff via email. Pastor Zach can still be reached at zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com and youth pastor Clayton at clayton.wwj@gmail.com at this time. For the time being this is a change to centralize our various online church accounts.

Crew and Cohort

Crew and Cohort will continue this week as we still have Crew (K-5) from 6-7PM and Cohort (6-12) 7:30-8:30PM on Wednesdays throughout April. We will be having two options each week for your child(ren) to participate as a result of your survey answers. The first option will be in-person, masked, and socially distanced in the church basement. If you are not comfortable yet with this option or if you or your child(ren) is/are not feeling well, your child(ren) will still be able to join in via Zoom for the same activities, videos, community building, and Christian formation! The Zoom link for each week will be:

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

Meeting ID: 882 2616 0610

Passcode: 233001

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Clayton Summers with any questions at 618-262-3065 or via email at clayton.wwj@gmail.com.

In faith, Youth Pastor Clayton Summers.

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Children and Youth Summer Camp Update

The regional camping program is still waiting for guidance and recommendations from the state about how to operate our in-person camping programs this upcoming summer. As such, registration is not open quite yet. They are hoping to have further information to offer by the end of March, but at the moment still are planning for 2021 Summer Camps to go ahead at their scheduled dates. The full statement and dates for this summer's camping program can be found [here on the Regional Website](#).

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.

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.

Communion

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Apr. 5th – David Fortner

Apr. 5th – Sadie Carlock Short

Apr. 6th – David & Kris S.' Anniv.

Apr. 7th – Pax Burris

Apr. 7th – Tracy Lilienthal

Apr. 12th – Jason Boots

Apr. 13th – Sue Larkin

Apr. 13th – John Clement

Apr. 15th – Hayden

Apr. 19th – Carol Daniel

Apr. 20th – Kay Wertz

Apr. 21st – Leo Kaufman

Apr. 21st – Paisley Walk

Apr. 22nd – Ryan Larkin

Apr. 22nd – Jason & Kim McKeon's Anniv.

Apr. 25th – Ali Mueller

Apr. 26th – Aaron & Stacy Miller Anniv.

Apr. 30th – Dom Baldassari

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Food Pantry

For the month of April, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting baking supplies for the food pantry. Please bring your baking supplies (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

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](#) 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 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 Dorothy L. who is facing some health concerns

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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](#)

Coffee Hour with the Pastor

As the COVID numbers go down in our area and more people receive the vaccine, Pastor Zach would like to begin having more opportunities to fellowship with all of you and get to know each of you better than COVID restrictions have allowed, so far. In that spirit, in the coming weeks he would like to begin inviting small groups of you to a Coffee Hour with the Pastor before, or after, Sunday services. He is hoping to have these get together starting at 9:15 am on Sundays and lasting until about 9:45 and/or after worship, from about 11:00 to 11:30 am, gathering in groups of 4-8 people, or up to two family groups. This will just be an opportunity to share fellowship over food and drink and learn more about one another. Arrangements can also be made for visits during my weekday office hours, or remotely via zoom or telephone. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the narthex or via email.

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 Realm.

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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=L21qck84OXoreDVVRGt3Q1B0Q2R4Zz09>

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

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

Ministry Across Generations Faith at Home Resources:

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

Camping Program Current Dates & Announcement: <https://cciwdisciples.org/camp-program/>

Vaccine Hotline News Story: <https://news.wttw.com/2021/03/15/illinois-launches-hotline-covid-19-vaccine-appointments>

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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