

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 59

May 1, 2021

Message from the Pastor

Dear Church,

As some of you may have seen, the CDC released some [new guidelines](#) outlining safe activities for people who have been vaccinated. According to the CDC's new guidance, it has been judged safe for vaccinated individuals, wearing masks to attend a worship service does not have limits on capacity. Likewise, they have deemed it safe for vaccinated individuals, wearing a mask to sing "in a chorus" at church. So, what does that mean for worship at Carlock Christian Church. Well, for one thing the tape that has been blocking off certain rows in the sanctuary has been removed. People are free to sit wherever they would like in the sanctuary. As for singing, there will be an opportunity for hymn singing at the end of this week's service. It will be held until the end so that those who do not feel safe or comfortable with the singing indoors will be able to exit the sanctuary, and those who wish to, can remain and sing. **Masks will still be required throughout the service, and while you are in the church building. Remember, these activities have been deemed safe for vaccinated individuals, there is still risk for those not fully vaccinated. Please take that into account when making decisions about your health and safety.**

As a church community, we wish to provide a worship experience that is meaningful and that provides people with the spiritual practices, rituals, and expressions of faith that make them feel closer to God. Part of that is providing a space for worship that is safe and healthy for all those who enter it, a space in which people can know that God and God's people care for their well-being, spiritual, physical, and otherwise. With that in mind, discussions among church leaders had begun, before this announcement by the CDC, about how to continue to safely "re-open" the church and get things back to "normal." Those discussions will continue. These latest steps are taken with the hope of continuing to ease us back into the swing of things in a safe way. Many of you have attended in person worship regularly throughout this pandemic, and I am grateful for your presence in worship, and your grace in dealing with this learning experience. Some of you stayed away during the thick of the pandemic, doing what you thought was best for your health and your family's health, and I am grateful for your steadfastness during this time, watching on-line worship and staying connected to the church anyway you could. You also showed much grace. Some of you have begun to return to church, and some are still being cautious. I respect those decisions and look forward to continuing to find ways of being church together during these trying times.

From what I know from talking to people, we seem to be doing well in regard to the number vaccinations that have been received in our congregation. However, in order to get a clearer picture, I will be sending out a survey dealing with vaccinations and comfort level with singing in church. Keep an eye out for that.

Things are beginning to "normalize," but COVID is still among us and vaccinations are still rolling out. So, please, stay vigilant. Wear your mask, wash your hands, social distance. And, at Carlock Christian Church we will continue to try and do our part by providing as safe a space as possible.

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We are in this together,

Zach

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.

Favorite Hymns!

Since singing in worship will be making a comeback in the weeks and months ahead, help me select some of the music that we will be featuring in our post-worship hymn sings and eventually in worship itself. What are your favorite hymns or praise songs? Which songs have you missed singing the most? What song do you want to be able to belt out on a Sunday morning? Let me know and I will try and work them into our plans for worship. You can let me know by dropping me an email at zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com, or you can leave your song choices on our Carlock Christian Church Facebook page. There is already a post there asking this very question. I look forward to hearing from you.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Starting on May 12th the Federal Communications Commission will open up registration for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a program that will fund a \$50/month discount on internet services/associated equipment rentals and a one-time \$100 discount on a laptop/tablet/desktop computer. You can determine if you qualify [here](#) (at or below 135% of the national poverty line, had a substantial loss of income during the pandemic, etc.) and learn more about the program [here](#).

Summer Camps!

Incorporating guidance and recommendations from the state about how to operate our in-person camping programs this upcoming summer, our regional camping program has decided to have weekend camps! The regional church's statement on the summer camps, the summer camp dates, age groups for each camp, the cost, and online registration links can be found [here on the Regional Website](#). Further, any of our children and youth who are interested in attending summer camp will have half of their camp cost paid by the church! If you have any questions or the remaining amount is still a barrier, please reach out to Clayton Summers (part of the camping program for 20 years) as we will make certain any child who wants to go to camp can.

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VBS+

We are excited to announce that this summer Carlock Christian Church will be taking a different twist on VBS, VBS+. The idea of VBS+ is that it is everything we love about VBS, from the stories to the crafts and activities, but *plus* families! Our theme for this year will be “*Embrace the Fruit of the Spirit*”. Like our current children ministry offerings, there will be two ways to participate. Option one will be via a pre-packed kit and online videos for those who are not yet comfortable being in person or unable to attend for scheduling reasons. We’ll send enough supplies for the entire family to participate at your own pace! Option two will be in-person at the church with either your family or some adopted adults from the congregation! For those in-person, more specifics will depend on the most recent health and safety guidelines. Clayton is currently sorting through the survey results and will have more information soon! For any further questions or clarifications, please contact Clayton Summers!

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.

Cohort

Cohort (6th – 12th) will continue this week, 7:30-8:30PM on Wednesdays. We will be having two options each week for your child(ren) to participate. 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=L2lqck84OXoreDVVRGt3QlB0Q2R4Zz09>

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.

Please also note that Crew has finished for the spring semester so Clayton can direct more of his time towards preparations for VBS+.

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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

May 1 st – Paul & Marcia Stauffer Anniv.	May 23 rd – Rebecca Neblock
May 7 th – Annie Carlock	May 25 th – Paul Stauffer
May 8 th – Jonathon Clement	May 27 th – Alix Summers
May 12 th – Scott & Stacey Boots Anniv.	May 27 th – Kari Miller
May 14 th – Brenndon McKeon	May 30 th – Stacy Miller
May 17 th – Kim & Doug Geshiwl Anniv.	May 30 th – Kim Maiorello

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](#)

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Food Pantry

For the month of May, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting peanut butter for the food pantry. Please bring your peanut butter (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

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 togethers 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or via email.

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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:zach@carlockchristianchurch.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, Dorothy L.'s nephew who has died from cancer
- We keep in prayer Betty H. as she improves some and desires phone calls and visits
- We keep in prayer Richard H. as his dementia worsens
- We keep in prayer Jeanette K.'s friend Karen Walters' family after her death
- We keep in prayer Dorothy L. who is facing some health concerns
- We keep in prayer Cole and his family after a mowing accident as he comes home and offer joy for the community that has come together to support them
- We keep in prayer the community of Indianapolis after the most recent mass shooting at FedEx, especially Zach's friend Ruben who was working at a nearby hospital as a chaplain the evening of the shooting
- We keep in prayer Jennifer's healing after her hand surgery
- We lift up in joy Erin and Steve's marriage
- We lift up in joy the birth of Marsha & Jim's great-grandson Weston to Nate and Katie
- We lift up in joy the birthday cards Sue sends to our church family

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>

VBS+ Survey: <https://forms.gle/VYLUuXJCH2HJaJR9>

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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