

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 61

May 15, 2021

Worship Announcement

Many of you may have seen or heard about the updated guidance from the CDC about mask wearing. For the time being, meaning at least this Sunday, please continue to wear your mask to worship at Carlock Christian Church. As always, we are committed to providing a safe and welcoming space in which to gather for the worship of God. In part this means considering the well being of those people that worship with us who have not had the opportunity to get vaccinated yet, including our youngest members. This matter will be under further consideration and discussion, and vaccinated individuals can gather in smaller groups in other parts of the building without masks, **but for now please continue to wear your mask while worshipping in the sanctuary.**

Peace and health,
Zach.

Message from the (Youth) Pastor

Dear Church,

This week Zach has asked me to write the weekly update article and I thought I would share with you a bit about my Seminary education (the masters-level degree program required by most mainline Protestant denominations as part of becoming an ordained minister) and how it is useful to not just pastors, but churches as well. Over the course of my now 3 years at Lexington Theological Seminary, I have taken a wide array of classes with wonderful classmates and engaging professors to prepare me not just for the ministry the future holds, but for my present ministry at Carlock Christian Church as well. I have taken classes useful to the church in administration, theology, Christian education, mission, pastoral care, ethics, worship, and church history – yet starting seminary I loaded my schedule with the classes on Scripture first.

The very first class I took in Seminary was on Scripture, namely its Origin, Authority, and Inspiration. I know this might sound a little dry or academic in a way that isn't practically useful, after all, why do we as the church need to know about how the Biblical text comes to us? Perhaps one of the strongest reasons is that in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we study Scripture for ourselves. "We critically and thoughtfully study scripture, taking into account the history and background – the context – in which it was written" (<https://disciples.org/our-identity/>). We actively encourage questions about and questioning of the Bible and we don't think there is necessarily only one right answer to every question of faith. In this study of Scripture, it is useful for the church to know how the Bible came to be, such as providing us with guidance for discussion around questions like "How is the Bible reliable today?", "How should the church view and read Scripture", and "Does the Bible still contain what God wanted heard?". These questions are deeply important to our faith and how we as the church interpret the Bible for faithfully living together.

In serving as your youth pastor for nearly 2 years now, I have leaned on this class to provide a lot of context to our older youth's discussions on the Bible and have a coherent understanding of

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how to use Bible stories for our younger children that still contain those foundational truths of God's love, grace, and justice. While Seminary has been a long process, from my very first class it has supported my role within the church and the spiritual nurturing of our children and youth.

Blessings,
Clayton

Thank You Note

Thank you to the congregation for including my nephew, Todd, in your prayers during his battle with cancer. Also, a thank you for the cards and phone calls regarding my health issues and following Todd's death.

- Dorothy L.

Graduates

Please let Sue Larkin know if you have a high school or college graduate this year so that they may be recognized by the church. We will also recognize any 2020 graduates that were missed last year due to Covid.

2021 Pentecost Offering: Be the New Church

For the past thirteen months, many Disciples living across the United States and Canada have been struggling with social isolation. They've stayed away from their various places of worship to protect the health and safety of themselves and others. It has been hard. How have new church leaders responded? By launching communities of faith in creative and innovative ways. It's looked like spreading the word about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Door Dash food deliveries, meeting with folks every week on Zoom to discuss anxiety, and making sure that the spiritual needs of transitioning out of correctional facilities are met. From hospital and prison chaplains to tri-vocational pastors, courageous new church leaders have answered the call to **be the new church**. To support them and their efforts to continue the new church movement, please contribute to the 2021 Pentecost Offering, collected in most congregations on Sundays, May 16 and May 23. Each year, half of the gifts made go to your own Region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. Through programs such as Leadership Academy, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants, your gifts make a difference across the life of the Church. By participating in this Special Day Offering, you ensure the viability, vitality and sustainability of unique new church plants in your area and in states, provinces, and territories far away. Please give generously. Let's all **be the new church**, together. Videos and stories can be found by visiting: <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost>.

To donate towards the 2021 New Church Pentecost Offering, please write "New Church" or "Pentecost" on your check's memo line or note it somewhere on your offering envelope on May 16 or 23.

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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.

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.

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.

VBS+ *Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit*: July 10th!

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! 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. Our theme for this year will be "*Embrace the Fruit of the Spirit*" and for those in-person will take place in one day, Saturday, July 10th from 9:30AM-3:30PM. Registration can be found here: <https://vbsmate.com/CarlockDoc>. While we do not have any end date for registration, we ask that you register early so we can plan accordingly! For any further questions or clarifications, please contact Clayton Summers!

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Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Now open, 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](#).

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.

Children & Youth Video Game Night

As an announcement, this week we will be diverging from our normally scheduled Wednesday to have a K-12th video game night! On Wednesday, May 19th, we will play video games at church from 6-8PM. Games will include Minecraft, Fortnite, etc. I will have an Xbox One, Wii, and Computer I will be bringing. If your child(ren) would like to bring an additional console/computer/game, they are welcome to do so (please coordinate with me so we can have enough screens). Some games (such as Fortnite and Minecraft) can be connected online, so if your family is not yet comfortable being in-person I am available to discuss how we can connect your child(ren) virtually for the Video Game Night.

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.

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.

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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.

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 14th – Brenndon McKeon

May 17th – Kim & Doug Geshiwlm Anniv.

May 20th – Zach Martin

May 23rd – Rebecca Neblock

May 25th – Paul Stauffer

May 27th – Alix Summers

May 27th – Kari Miller

May 30th – Stacy Miller

May 30th – Kim Maiorello

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

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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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, Dorothy L.'s nephew who has died from cancer
- 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 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 Jennifer's healing after her hand surgery
- We keep in prayer the family of longtime member Betty H. after her death
- 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>

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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