

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 64

Week of June 6, 2021

New Office Hours

Pastor Zach is updating his office hours. They will now be M-Th 10 am-1 pm. Also available by appointment M-Th.

Message from the Pastor

Dear church,

Starting this Sunday, the church policy on mask wearing will be updated to be in line with the CDC's latest guidance. So, **mask wearing in the church will be recommended for all. However, vaccinated individuals will no longer be required to wear masks in the church. Non-vaccinated individuals, or those with health issues that might make them immunocompromised, will still be asked to wear masks, especially in a larger group setting such as the sanctuary.** Everyone is encouraged to use their best judgement and make the choice they feel is best for themselves, their friends, and their family. If, for you, that means continuing to wear a mask, please continue to do so.

This new guidance from the CDC, along with the expected statewide lifting of most restrictions on June 11th, in a way marks the end of one season of this pandemic. Some may feel that these developments signify that the pandemic is over, and that life is finally returning to normal. Perhaps this will prove to be true, but I think if we have learned one thing from this past 16 months it is that we just don't know what the future holds. We do, however, know what the present holds for us. It is a world where we can begin to go mask-less more often, and where we can begin returning to the events and activities and people that we have been missing. However, despite all this, we will be living in a world where the COVID-19 virus is still with us. As we are learning, vaccination rates have slowed at this point, and it appears that we are still a long way off from reaching herd immunity. Some experts believe that we will never get there. So, we will learn to live with the virus. Vaccination makes a far less risky proposition for some, but the virus remains.

Hopefully, what will also remain with us are the lessons we learned during this period of our history. We have learned the ways in which something so small as virus can turn the world upside down, but we also learned that small acts like wearing a mask or simply staying home more often can be a help to a society in crisis, it can even save lives. These sorts of ripple effects have served to remind us that we are not alone here, that our lives are entirely our own, they are part of a larger community of people, and a wider world. Of course, this has always been the case, since God put Adam here to care for the Earth, and created Eve to help Adam, and so that he would not be alone. So, the virus may stay with us, but so will be that reminder and that opportunity, to continually recommit to that work God gave us. To care for all creation. To make room for the presence of God, no matter how hectic the return to normal gets.

Let us continue to be in this together,

Zach

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Coffee Hour

With the updated CDC guidance, we are now returning to holding our pre-worship coffee hour at 9AM on Sundays. If you would like to host coffee hour, please sign up in the church Narthex or contact Pastor Zach.

Voting for Officers: June 6

This Sunday, June 6th immediately following worship we will be voting upon the slate of officers that has been in the weekly update for the past two weeks as well as the worship bulletin. See Weekly Update 62 and 63 on the church website for the slate of officers.

Sunday Worship

This week's worship will be in-person following our standard masking 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.

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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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.

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](#).

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.

Communion

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

Cohort

For next week (June 9th), due to traveling, camps and other commitments by many of our youth and volunteers, we will not be having Cohort on Wednesday for our 6th-12th grade youth. Our next regularly scheduled gathering will be held on June 16th!

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 7 th – Pat & Sue Larkin’s Anniv.	June 21 st – Mitch & Dianne Mitchell’s Anniv.
June 8 th – Owen & Judy Arvin’s Anniv.	June 22 nd – Jairon & Lacie Walk’s Anniv.
June 12 th – Deb & John Clement’s Anniv.	June 22 nd – Alix & Clayton Summers’ Anniv.
June 14 th – Mary Kentch	June 23 rd – Marshall Elkin
June 16 th – Austin & Katelynn’s Anniv.	June 23 rd – David & Diane Stauffer’s Anniv.
June 17 th – Erin Lanz	June 25 th – Neal & Mary Kentch’s Anniv.
June 17 th – Mike Miller	June 27 th – Owen Arvin
June 17 th – Time & Lou Daniel’s Anniv.	June 28 th – Michael Fulford
June 19 th – Cristin & Dave Weber’s Anniv.	June 28 th – Aaron & Ali Jones’ Anniv.
June 19 th – Megan Branch	June 29 th – Mindy McReynolds
	June 30 th – Connor Short

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

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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, 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 keep in prayer Jessi, one of Clayton's friends who was in a car accident
- We keep in prayer Jennifer's grandson's six year old friend and his family as they face many health complications including the friend's kidney being removed
- 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
- We lift up in joy Jim & Marsha and Dan & Cindy who both passed their 50th Anniversary during the past year
- We lift up in joy the prayers and support of the community of faith for Marshall & Lil

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=L21qck84OXoreDVVRGt3QlB0Q2R4Zz09>

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>

Cohort Summer Lesson Schedule: <http://carlockchristianchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CohortSummerSchedule2021.pdf>

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

Email Clayton Summers: <mailto:clayton.wwj@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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