

# Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 65

## Week of June 13, 2021

### Message from the Pastor

Dear Church,

During a conversation this week I was reminded of the nature of our traditions. I was reminded that sometimes our traditions -like communion, the liturgy, the hymns we sing, etc.- complicate things, because they mean something different to each of us. Some cling tightly to tradition, while others fail to see the same importance. The door swings both ways, as some people find traditions less meaningful as they are repeated week after week, yet for other people that same repetition is what makes these traditions important and uplifting. A lot of time is spent in churches debating (sometimes arguing) about these traditions. Which ones to uphold, which ones to let go. Still, it is important to remember what exactly it is we are talking about when we talk about church traditions. What we are talking about when we talk about traditions is relationship, the way we are relating to God and to the world.

During my conversation this week I was reminded that some people find just as much connection with God when walking in the woods or when sitting quietly at home knitting or reading as they do when taking communion at church. So, on a personal level, it's all about our relationship with God and the ways we find to express and experience that all important relationship. So, then, you might be asking yourself, what is the importance of tradition, these rituals we undertake week after week. Well, they are just other ways to live out our experience with God. Ritual traditions can serve as touchstones or totems that regularly return our attention to the spiritual aspect of our lives.

However, when performed as a community, such traditions acknowledge the reality that our relationship with God necessarily means a relationship with each other, with God's family and creation. Take for example the ritual of the Lord's Table. This is the defining sacrament of our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The founders of the denomination, Thomas and Alexander Campbell, experienced other denominations where access to the sacrament of communion was withheld only for those who met certain criteria. So, when the Disciples movement began an open table became a central part of worship and a founding principal of the denomination. As a community we carry out this ritual in the site of God, to remember Christ's gift of love and sacrifice, and recognize these gifts of the Spirit in one another and our community.

During the pandemic we saw many of these traditions halted or carried out in a different manner, such as using whatever you had at home as a stand in for traditional communion elements. We were reminded of just how important our traditions were to us, but also how flexible we could be in finding ways to honor our relationship with God. Hopefully, we will look back on this time and remember that our traditions and rituals are not tasks we are required to carry out in order to gain God's approval, but rather, actions we take to bring our attention back to our relationship with God and with another as God's children. And in this world so wonderfully and lovingly made by God, there is no wrong place, bad time, or incorrect way to come before God.

Peace,  
Zach

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### Communion

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

### 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.

### Coffee Hour

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

### 2021 Graduate Recognition

We want to celebrate those who are connected to our community of faith that are going through a season of transition in graduation this year! We celebrate Lane Brown graduating from high school and Amy Mueller receiving her DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice).

### VBS+ *Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit: July 10<sup>th</sup>!*

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

### 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.

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### New Church Email

The church has a new email address! To assist in making a more centralized online presence, [carlockdoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com) and youth pastor Clayton at [clayton.wwj@gmail.com](mailto:clayton.wwj@gmail.com) at this time. For the time being this is a change to centralize our various online church accounts.

### Cohort

Cohort (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) will continue this week, 7:00-8:30PM on Wednesdays. **(Please note the summer time change from a start time of 7:30 to 7:00PM. This will enable us to spend half an hour in gathering games followed by an hour lesson.)** We know families are often busy during summers, so we understand if kids aren't able to attend every week with family trips and other commitments. At the same time, we hope our youth are able to attend when they are available for Christian formation in community. 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! For the summer, we will be doing a study series on how our faith and the Bible intersect with the world. The list of lessons and meetings can be found [here](#). This week we will be discussing “cliques and groups that exclude”. 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](mailto: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 14 <sup>th</sup> – Mary Kentch	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Alix & Clayton Summers' Anniv.
June 16 <sup>th</sup> – Austin & Katelynn's Anniv.	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Marshall Elkin
June 17 <sup>th</sup> – Erin Lanz	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – David & Diane Stauffer's Anniv.
June 17 <sup>th</sup> – Mike Miller	June 25 <sup>th</sup> – Neal & Mary Kentch's Anniv.
June 17 <sup>th</sup> – Time & Lou Daniel's Anniv.	June 27 <sup>th</sup> – Owen Arvin
June 19 <sup>th</sup> – Cristin & Dave Weber's Anniv.	June 28 <sup>th</sup> – Michael Fulford
June 19 <sup>th</sup> – Megan Branch	June 28 <sup>th</sup> – Aaron & Ali Jones' Anniv.
June 21 <sup>st</sup> – Mitch & Dianne Mitchell's Anniv.	June 29 <sup>th</sup> – Mindy McReynolds
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Jairon & Lacie Walk's Anniv.	June 30 <sup>th</sup> – Connor Short

### Food Pantry

For the month of June, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting tomato products for the food pantry. Please bring your tomato products (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

### Sunday Worship

This week's worship will be in-person. On Sunday evening/night 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.

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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) 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 Richard H. as his dementia worsens
- 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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=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>

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.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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