

# Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 76

## Week of August 29, 2021

### Message from the (Youth) Pastor

Dear Church,

With Pastor Zach out of the office this week, he asked me to write the Weekly Update article. This week I thought I would write about gardening, or at least my experience with it. Up until this year, I thought I had inherited my gardening abilities from my mother which could be summed up in the phrase she repeated in my childhood “I have a brown thumb”. Opposed to the common “green thumb”, our attempts at gardening while I was growing up were met with withered plants that quickly died off to brown stalks and leaves.

This year Alix asked for a raised bed garden, and I constructed it from some old planks in our garage and moved many wheelbarrows full of soil from other parts of our yard to fill it up. Once complete, Alix and her dad planted peas and, in my attempts to procrastinate from school and work, I took on watering responsibilities. Within a week there were sprouts! I weeded away everything else and became excited about gardening, so I planted radishes and carrots as well.

Another few weeks went by, and the radishes and carrots were coming up and looking just like I expected, but the peas really were not growing. I decided to download an app on my phone that let me take a picture of a plant and identify it as I began having doubts about my pea sprouts. Much to my shock, the app identified my pea sprouts as... Common Crabgrass!

As I reflect on this experience of cultivating common crabgrass, watering it, and weeding away its competition, I can't help but be grateful for the experience. If it were not for the crabgrass I was caring for, I wouldn't have become excited about gardening and planted the radishes and carrots, much less taken care of the cucumbers, squash and zucchini that came up later. Having just had a tasty lunch of cooked carrots from the garden while writing this, it would have been a loss!

Often our faith journeys can be like my mistrials in gardening. We make mistakes, we hit dead ends, and we don't end up with what we thought we had planted. Thankfully our God is the God of forgiveness who loves without limits. No matter the mistakes or dead ends that our faith may seem to take, these accidental cultivations of crabgrass serve to keep us on the journey with a God who promises a bountiful harvest ahead.

May you find the joy of carrots, radishes, cucumbers, squash, zucchini and more ahead,  
Clayton

### Masking Recommendation

[Regional Church Leadership] encourage our congregations to follow the latest public health advice. The current advice is wearing masks indoors, and vaccinations for those who are able...It would be wise to protect each other.

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### Save the Date! 185<sup>th</sup> Celebration: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating the church's 185<sup>th</sup> birthday! We are excited to announce that Lloyd Hulit will be our guest speaker, giving a sermon on Proverbs 22:6 entitled "Hourglass". Following worship will be fellowship and a potluck.

### 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.

### Communion

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

### Fall Children & Youth Programming

Crew and Cohort are coming back for the fall! Crew and Cohort will resume after Labor Day on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Crew is for children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and Cohort is for youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Crew will take place from 6:00PM-7:00PM and Cohort from 7:00PM-8:30PM every Wednesday from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> (with the week of Thanksgiving off). Crew will be using a curriculum called "Celebrate Wonder" while Cohort will be discussing "The Basics of Faith". Both groups will play games, do crafts, learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and have a lot of fun doing so. We hope to see your kids there or for you to invite kids from families you know!

Note: A Zoom link for those who are not comfortable in person will be coming soon.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup> – Riley Larkin	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> – Marc Thomas
Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Cody Larkin	Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup> – Bryan Burris
Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> – Tom Wherry	Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup> – Neal Kentch
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> – Robert Hamilton	Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> – Hillary Thomas
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> – Jim & Marsha Funk Anniv.	Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> – Shayla Neblock
Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> – Dave & Cyndi Dunmire Anniv.	Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> – Michael & Wendy Smiley Anniv.
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> – Braylen Walk	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Ned & Christi Mueller Anniv.
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> – Austin Baer	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Tim Daniel
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> – Gary & Sadie Short Anniv.	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> – Jeff Myers

### Coffee Hour This Sunday

This Sunday (August 29<sup>th</sup>) there will be coffee hour at 9:00AM in the church basement. If you would like to host coffee hour, please sign up in the church Narthex or contact Pastor Zach.

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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.

### 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.

### 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 Covid-19 and its effects: health, mental, emotional, spiritual, and economic
- Please keep in prayer Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Carle BroMenn Medical Center
- We keep in prayer Richard H. moving into Heritage in Normal for rehab after a hard fall and continued trouble with dementia, complicated by longer time separated from family with a lockdown because of Covid-19 at Heritage
- We keep in prayer Sue L.'s brother Doug as he continues to face health issues and pain
- We keep in prayer all the people who are currently in Afghanistan at this time
- We keep in prayer the students, faculty, and staff as they are returning to school
- We keep in prayer David S. as he is still the same, but he and Diane miss worshiping with the community
- We keep in prayer Lou D.'s brother Jerry and his family as he has been falling and having health complications
- We offer up joy and thanksgiving for the faith community's outreach to Dorothy L. following the sudden death of her sister-in-law
- We offer up joy and thanksgiving for the love this community of faith expresses with birthday wishes
- We offer up joy and thanksgiving for Cody getting a chance to play baseball a last Saturday

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### Food Pantry

For the month of September, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting pasta for the food pantry. Please bring your pasta (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 address on the following page:

First Presbyterian Church of Danvers  
201 E. Main St., Danvers, IL 61732  
Memo: Food Pantry

### 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 if separated by physical distance, together we are still reaching out to be the body of Christ in our community. Everyone who has given back to God in whatever form, you are furthering the work of God's Realm.

Carlock Christian Church  
P.O. Box # 279  
Carlock, IL 61725

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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/>

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>

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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