

CPC LIFE

To Reach To Grow To Send

January 2021

ISSUE

1111 E Madison St, Lombard, IL 60148-3198 - cpclombard.org - 630.627.0306

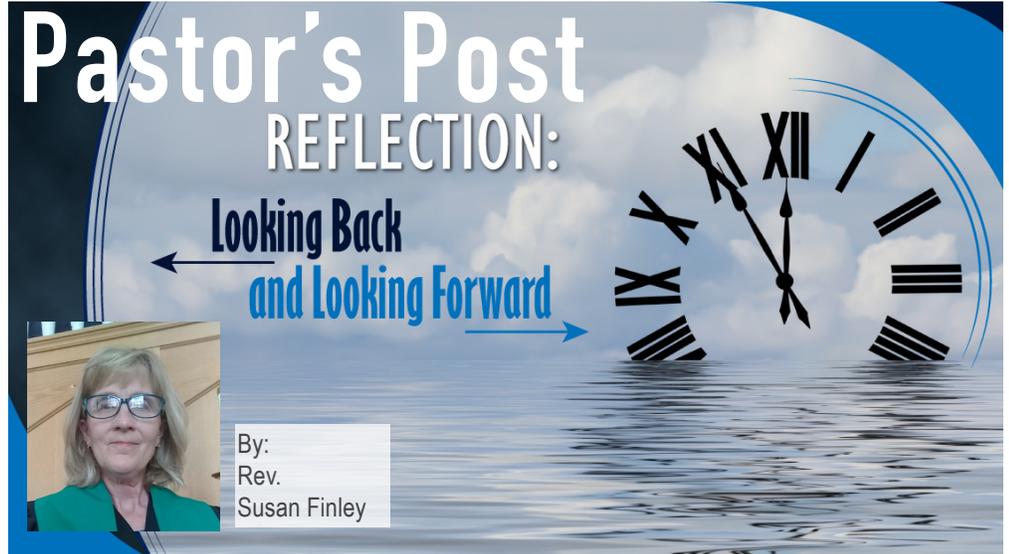


Elder of the Month
Diane Gillard

Deacon of the Month
Amanda Campbell

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 For protocols visit:
<https://www.cpclombard.org/cpc-covid19-info>
 Service is streaming "Live" at 10:00am and Recorded for online viewing
 FM Transmission **88.1** from the CPC Parking Lot

- **Sunday, Jan 3**
 10:00am Worship
 Communion Sunday
- **Sunday, Jan 10**
 10:00am Worship
- **Sunday, Jan 17**
 10:00am Worship
- **Sunday, Jan 24**
 10:00am Worship
- **Sunday, Jan 31**
 10:00am Worship
 Zoom - Annual Meeting 1:00pm
 Email will be sent with a link



Last December, did you ever imagine that we would experience our world as we do now? I sure didn't!

Last year at this time, I was visiting my 92 year-old parents in their lovely assisted living apartment, decorating my house in preparation for my children to come for Christmas Eve, cutting out golden stars, and finishing handmade ornaments with parishioners to exchange during the Passing of the Peace at Christmas Eve worship.

What about you? What were you doing last year? I wonder what we'll all be doing in December of 2021?

This will be the year that CPC prepares the groundwork for a new installed pastor. When Scripture talks about the best way to "prepare a way", we read about making the "rough places plain and the rugged ground smooth." That is a wise first goal. Over just the past four months, a great deal of reorganizing and updating has been accomplished by new staff member, Dave Micksch, Communications Director,

(Continued on page 4.)

MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

EVENTS, CRUX, FAITH WEAVER FRIENDS (FWF), KIDS' CLUB, & THE GROWING PLACE



Tithe

SUNDAYS

- Join us for recorded Worship Service
Videos <https://www.cpclombard.org/cpc-video>



CPC Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31st via Zoom 1:00pm
Email with link will be sent.



Get Ready!!! CPC will be sending out an email blast by January to make sure we have your correct contact information. This will be a form you can fill out online. We'll also send out printed copies for those who do not use the internet. Please fill out the form and return by 1st week of Feb.'21

TUESDAYS

- Jan. 5 / Adult Ed 3:00pm
/ Worship Committee 7:00pm
- Jan. 12 / Missions 3:00pm /
Children's Ministry 4:30pm
- Jan. 19 / Deacons 6:30pm
/ Trustees 7:30pm
- Jan. 26 / Session 7:00pm

WEDNESDAYS

- Women's Bible Study 10:00am (All are welcome)
- Staff 1:00pm
- Jan. 13 / Communications 10:00am
/ Finance 6:00pm

Go to our website "Donate" page: www.cpclombard.org/donate, click on the "Donate Now" button, and you can use your credit card to make a donation. To use your smart phone to donate: (TEXT - DON'T CALL) 855-913-0299 and on the MESSAGE LINE, type in the amount to be given. If this is the first time you have used this method, it will come up and ask you for your credit card information. Or, if you prefer, mail a check to the CPC office at 1111 E Madison St, Lombard, IL 60148-3198.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. We will be back together soon.
Finance - Don Gilliard & Carol Kloster



James 2:26 (NASB) - "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

By: Dave Micksch

Spirit of a Pioneer

Entering a new year is a little like being a pioneer – you have hopes and dreams for your travels ahead. You chart new ground, whenever you venture out into new territory. You'll never know what tomorrow brings, and if there is one thing 2020 has taught us, it is that! So, what course will you chart for 2021?

Are you the type who goes wherever the wind takes you?

Or, are you someone who prefers to plot out a detailed plan?

As you embrace venturing out into the new territory of 2021, what will be your guide? Every year, many of us make resolutions to "chart something new; to do something different to better ourselves so we grow. If you are the "wind-type", your resolution may be as broad as opening up to the new opportunities that come your way, saying "yes" more. If you prefer the "detailed plan", you're already setting daily schedules on your devices with reminders and alerts to help you reach that destination. Drake wrote "Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination."

Having a destination or goal in mind is vital; it is your "Northward Compass" it will guide you when the journey gets difficult or confusing. It is in those moments that you learn about you, life, and God. Abra-

ham and Jonah had resolved early on in life to trust and follow God, though both went about it in different ways. Hebrews 11:8 [NASB] - "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." Jonah 1:1-3 [BSB] - "Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai, saying, 'Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me.' Jonah, however, got up to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord ..."

Abraham and Jonah are considered "Pioneers of the faith". Their personalities were very different.

(Continued on page 8.)

Adult Ed



Monday Nights 7pm Adult Ed Class

A seven-week class begins on Monday January 4th at 7:00pm. It will utilize short videos by Max Lucado and be facilitated by Pastor Susan Finley. Max Lucado is a best-selling Christian author and the Teaching Pastor at the non-denominational Oak Hill Church in San Antonio, Texas.

During our season of sheltering with COVID-19, Max Lucado created various topical contemporary YouTube devotionals that include relevant and thoughtful Biblical perspectives. Each week, one of these 6-10 minute videos will be shown by Pastor Susan during the Zoom meeting, and participants will be able to discuss and share insights and perspectives.

Please let Pastor Susan know that you are interested, so that you will receive an email with the Zoom link in it.



Deacons' Diary

"Thank you all for your support of the Deacons' work, especially these past ten months during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even when things are not normal, we have been able to reach out to others and show God's love. This past Christmas, we contacted 17 school social workers from Lombard and Villa Park, asking if we could help provide 3 families from each school with Walmart Gift Cards in the amount of \$25, so they could purchase gifts for their children. We immediately heard back from 14 schools, and, because of the generosity of our Congregation, we were able to purchase \$3,300 worth of gift cards. These were distributed on Monday, December 14th to 45 families.

We Wish our Loving and Dear Congregation A Happy and Healthy New Year. May God richly bless each and every one of you!"

Shepherds

On December 12, Shepherds met in the Library and packed containers with cookies for delivery to shut-ins and others from our Church family. This annual project is done as an outreach to others during the Christmas season. We hope these cookies helped to spread God's love and joy to those who received them. Thank you to all who baked, packed, delivered cookies, and prayed for this event. Your participation is a blessing!



Pastor's Post (Continued from page 1.)

on every office system, with the help of Don Gilliard, Bill Stout and the Trustees, and the office volunteers Diane Porter, Joyce Mantels, and Diane Gilliard. In addition, as part of the Reopening plan, a team has been able to update the AV equipment so that we can live-stream our services and programming, as well as broadcast through an FM transmitter.

So the physical groundwork is well underway. What about laying our spiritual groundwork? Christian Century, as well as many other research sources, cite these qualities of flourishing churches:

– **Opportunities for deepening, active spiritual life:** prayer, scripture reading, small groups, etc.

– **Cultivating a sense of belonging:** a vibrant sense of community and participation.

– **Inspiring service opportunity:** worship services and mission to the community and beyond.

– **Empowered leadership:** encouraging others to use their skills for the common good.

– **Community presence:** an active presence in the community at large.

Churches who attained some measure of success in these areas realized growth in membership, attendance, and giving.

How well do you think CPC does with each of these qualities?

I have enjoyed half a dozen ZOOM discussion with over 25 CPC members now and I'm looking forward to more in 2021. The most important hope identified by folks in our talks has been developing CPC as a place of welcome for young families.



Research shows that young families, who tend to be stressed by job and school obligations, no longer perceive of church the way their parents and grandparents did in the past. Fewer young parents devote time to church committees and offices. And yet, at CPC, there are a commendable number of parents of young children and teenagers who are very active in the church.

The challenge for CPC is finding ways, not only to show appreciation for how they contribute their considerable gifts, but also to provide opportunities for them to bond with each other so that their children grow up with a sense of togetherness and belonging. We are limited by COVID-19 now, but we're ready to plan for the future.

Given our physical and spiritual groundwork, and hope for the future, what could hold us back?

Here are a few things that recent research shows can not only stop a church

from flourishing, but can send it toward a point of no return.

An inability to try new worship formats: "We've never done it that way before.", "That music is too loud.", "We ALWAYS say the Apostles' Creed!"

Putting doctrine and tradition above love and hospitality: "Those other churches are stealing our young people, because they don't preach the TRUTH!" and "No one should enter the sanctuary dressed like THAT!"

Designing worship, ministry, and mission to serve members, instead of visitors and community.

Instead, a flourishing church asks: "Will a visitor understand the acronyms we use?"

"Is our worship, ministry, and mission designed with outreach in mind?"

"How many of our mission opportunities are open to friends, or to the public?"

"How much of our budget is dedicated to outreach?"

"How does each committee contribute to welcome, hospitality, and building up new-comers?"

And most important, how will all of us PRAY for 2021?

Because if people see that we've been made alive in Christ, created in him to do good works, and that we walk in Jesus' way of forgiveness and love, CPC will flourish because of its witness to our Life-Giving Savior. And we'll have a spectacular New Year in 2021.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Susan

Join Our Prayer Group



Our prayer group continues to meet to pray for our church and our world. We would love to have anyone who is interested in joining to please do so, even if you do not want to pray out loud. "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Mathew 18:20. We meet on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am for about 30 minutes. Please join us for a prayer group that meets over the phone. We are discontinuing the conference call line. Please call or drop a note to Joan Marlow if you wish to join the group and we will merge you into our small group. It is VERY easy.

Hope to pray with you. Joan Marlow, Diane Porter and Diane Gilliard



CPC Senior Outings

For more information, go to our CPC website, Facebook page, Sunday Bulletin, Hallway Monitors, Sunday Services, and Event Contact.

Hope that everyone is doing well. We continue to miss seeing everyone. We will be bringing a small gift to each of you to help brighten the holidays. Until the time when we can gather again, we would like to keep in touch with all of you. Please call any of us on the committee if you have a need, prayer request, or just want to talk. We are praying for all of you.

The Senior committee: Carol Brunton 630-620-4571, Carol Kloster 630-903-4847, Nancy Bane 630-917-7128, Gail Smith 630-629-0475, Cheryl Williams 630-284-9474, Jeanne Logan 630-629-7641, and Diane Gilliard 312-502-4751.

Archives Committee



FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROBERT PURRINGTON, MINISTER
SUNDAY NOV. 16
11: A.M.
WESTMORE SCHOOL
LOMBARD, ILL.
(SCHOOL STREET, BETWEEN DIVISION AND WASHINGTON)
A FAMILY CHURCH FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.
COME ... AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO WORSHIP THE LORD ON HIS DAY.



There would be no Indiana Jones without Archivists.

CPC Lombard has a glorious history and you are a big part of it. We hope to form an Archives Committee in 2021 to organize files and identify photographs. Long-time and new patrons can help. If you are interested in joining or assisting the committee, or have physical or digital photos or papers or objects to contribute to the church archives, email Dan Smaczny at dan.smaczny@outlook.com.



After Sunday worship service are you Zoom'n for some coffee and conversation?

Join us every Sunday at 11:30am Coffee Hour.

Link provided in our Sunday morning email.

If you do not receive our emails, please contact us at connect@cpclombard.org.



Although the Growing Place was scheduled to open November 30, we didn't re-open at that time due to a shortage of teaching staff. Many mothers are staying home with their own children as they do their own classes virtually. We are on track for opening January 19th. The GP team has been working hard at making sure that all health department and DCFS regulations regarding safety during the coronavirus will be adhered to. We have 48 children who are on the list to start in January and we hope to have our teachers in place as public schools re-open. In the meantime, the weekly newsletters continue and the GP staff, sponsored a Drive-by Santa Event (depicted above and below) for the families. Stay tuned for more information. Please continue to keep the GP staff, and families in your prayers.



Youth Ministry

By:
Youth Director
Eric Schwarz

We are going to have a confirmation class this year. I have 3 students that are interested in getting confirmed here at CPC.

I also know there is a potential for students that we have been separated from because of COVID-19 that I haven't contacted yet.

Our classes will be held remotely via Zoom, sessions will be recorded if you can't be there live. If your student misses a session, they will have to take a quiz to prove that they know the material covered in that session.

We will be using Jim Burns' materials "Confirming Your Faith" as we have in the past. Our goal is to start mid-January and to be confirmed on Pentecost.

Please Contact Eric Schwarz or Pastor Susan if you are interested.

Eric Schwarz



FINANCE:

It has come to our attention from the Lombard Police Department that thieves have been targeting churches during the pandemic. We know that several of our neighborhood churches have experienced losses when parishioners have put either cash or a check in an envelope and left it in the church mailbox.

The Trustees have already taken specific actions to protect us. Our old mailbox has been removed and a new locking one has replaced it. Only authorized members have keys to it, and it is emptied once a day. Any checks or cash removed are placed in a locking cabinet in the church until the Trustees can count it.

When you get your statements from the church, please double check carefully to ensure we have accounted for all of your donations. If you are missing one, please contact Gayle Casey at 630-743-9577 or gcasey@d45.org and she will research it for you.

Thank you as always for your generosity and love for our church.

The Finance Committee



Our Partner in Central Africa

The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) is our partner in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. CCAP has three autonomous Synods in Malawi (Blantyre, Livingstonia, and Nkhoma), in addition to the Synods of Zambia and Harare (Zimbabwe). Each Synod runs its daily affairs independently of the others. CCAP is the largest Protestant denomination in Malawi, with 500 congregations and around 600,000 members. Around 70% of the population claim membership of a Christian church.

The three Malawian Synods have programs of evangelism and Christian training, and train ministers at Zomba Theological College.

Caring for People

The education of its children and young people has always been a priority of the church in Malawi, and today thousands receive their primary and secondary education in schools run by the churches.

Around 40% of Malawi's healthcare needs are met by the churches, including the CCAP's five hospitals located at Livingstonia, Ekwendeni, Embangweni, Nkhoma, and Mulanje – each being responsible for a network of dispensaries and primary healthcare clinics.

Our denomination supports seven mission co-workers in one or more of these countries. Your gifts to CPC help to fund these dedicated workers.

Trustees' Report



Let's Celebrate!

January Birthdays

Patti Comfort
 Eric Schwarz
 Debora Celio
 Julia Szostak
 Margaret Blasius
 Kristen Dahm
 Raymond Mentzer
 Reina Bell
 Joyce Mantels
 Matt Rogers
 Martha DeJong
 Nancy Kehayias
 Samuel Dennis
 Margaret Dickow
 Jamie DeLuca
 Amanda Campbell
 John Antonelli
 Pam Forsberg
 Paul Kubiniec
 Sarah Acitelli
 Jessica Rau
 Daniel Simms
 Michael Stout

February Birthdays

James Gilliard
 Jacob Kelly
 Patrick Simms
 Tabitha Smaczny
 Allison Smaczny
 Melissa Pagonis
 Diane Vargo
 Tiana Innis
 Jack Van Scoyk
 Jacob Roucka
 Sierra Innis
 Benjamin Jungblut
 Clara Opila
 Anthony Acitelli
 Shawn Campbell
 Alison McClow
 Evan McClow
 Anna Rogers
 Ellen Baffa
 Adabelle Roberts
 Hannah Green
 Alice Peterson
 Sue Watkins
 Daniel Smaczny
 Sara Joslyn
 Matthew Jungblut
 Diane Kubiniec
 William Pattison
 Nancy Bane
 Joshua Geis

January Anniversaries

Phil & Phyllis Capuzelo
 John & Barbara Dries
 Nick & Valerie Badalamenti

February Anniversaries

Don & Patty Comfort

Building

On December 4th, Service Express performed yearly maintenance of the furnace and boilers. Service Express will return in January to diagnose the rooftop furnace that is heating continuously instead of cycling on and off as it should.

Manse

It was noted that the Trustees' 2020 budget includes \$1,000 for manse appliances. The upstairs refrigerator no longer works. Motion was made by Phil Dahm and seconded by Tyler Celio to replace the above refrigerator with a new Frigid-aire 20.4 cubic foot refrigerator at a cost of \$1,151. This includes \$809 for the refrigerator, \$202 for a 5 year warranty and \$40 to remove the old refrigerator. Motion passed.

Grounds

Herb Miller, Bill Stout and Ron Zabel did a final 2020 hand mowing, cleaned the manse garage, stacked salt neatly, and confirmed that the snowblowers work. Trustees will be shoveling sidewalks as needed on Sundays before worship services or education sessions.

Trustees will be removing the tires from the fenced-in play area east of the Manse.

As always ... If you see or know of something that needs our attention, please email a brief description of the item needing attention to:

Trustees@cpclombard.org

-or-

Complete a Trustee work request in the office and place it in the Trustee mail slot. Trustees: Bill Stout (chair), John Harris (secretary), Cary Mentzer, Tyler Celio, Don Comfort, Phil Dahm, Jim DeLuca, Jeff DeJong, and Ron Zabel

FEET TO FAITH - (Continued from page 2.)

Abraham was willing to heed God's call and move. He's closer to the "wind-type". Jonah, on-the-other-hand, though faithful, saw things his way and "thought more it than God's way.". He was more of the "detailed type"; Jonah was slow to opening himself up to what God was asking of him.

The pioneer spirit for both was willing to risk and venture into the unknown while trusting in God and trying to live according to His commands. He was their compass. Abraham journeyed to the Promised Land and Jonah journeyed to the "land" of true forgiveness and redemption.

Whether one decides to go as God called or to be open to God's direction along the way, be like Abraham and Jonah; root yourselves in Word and prayer to ensure that wherever you journey, you'll be OK, and most likely better than OK.

Wherever 2021 takes you, keep God as your compass, and with confidence, have the spirit of a pioneer – willing to risk and willing to trust.