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A Star on the Far Horizon

As 2021 begins, hope shines like a star on the far horizon asking us to follow into unknown territory. Distribution of the new vaccines for COVID-19 promises that this pandemic will end, but it is unclear what the world will be like when it releases its grip on our lives. A year of varying levels of isolation and quarantine has changed just about everything: work, family life, church, education, commerce, government, and the arts. We've learned just how much we can adapt when we have to--which is a joy. But there is deep grief at all that has been lost and deep fear in the knowledge that this pandemic has changed life profoundly and forever.

One thing that has not changed is that, as Christians, we begin the year with the story of those who followed a new star into an unknown future. The Magi left their home and journeyed toward a light and a promise, though they did not know for sure what or who they would find upon their arrival. And once they had found the promised child, an angel told them they could not simply retrace the route they had come and resume the lives they had known. Instead, they had to return home by another way.

I think 2021 is going to be like that for us. There is a light on the horizon; God is coming to us in hope. And we cannot simply retrace our steps to the life we had before the pandemic. We will have to go home by another way.

The scripture does not tell us what became of the Magi once they embarked upon their homeward journey, but scripture does show us waymarks to guide us as we emerge into a changed world.

For the last several years, our congregation has embraced the spiritual practice of distributing "Star Words" on the Sunday closest to The Feast of Epiphany on January 6. Just as God showed the Magi a star that would guide them to the Christ Child, we hope that receiving a Star Word as the new year begins will guide your own prayers and contemplations in the coming weeks.

If we were worshipping in our sanctuary, each person would come forward and draw a star from the basket. Since we cannot do that this Christmas, we are sending the stars to you through the mail. If you don't receive one, call the

Upcoming Worship

(all worship services are accessible through Facebook Live unless otherwise noted)

January 3, 10:00 AM

Epiphany Sunday

Luke 2: 1-12

Karen Sapio preaching

January 10, 10:00 AM

Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1: 4-11

Karen Sapio preaching

January 17, 10:00 AM

John 1: 43-51

Karen Sapio preaching

Waffle Church on Zoom

January 24, 10:00 AM

Mark 1: 14-20

Karen Sapio preaching

January 31, 10:00 AM

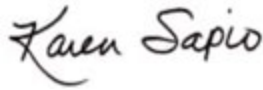
Mark 1: 21-28

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Evening Prayer on the Lawn will begin again with Ash Wednesday on February 17.

church office and we'll be sure one makes its way to you. We invite you to put this star somewhere you can see it frequently. Ponder the word's meaning for your life today and as the year unfolds. Notice when it shows up. Wonder where it might be leading you.

May God bless your journey in 2021.



Worship With CPC On Line: A Brief Tutorial

There are several simple ways to navigate to our online Sunday Worship services.

From our Church Website:

1. Go to claremontpres.org. The opening screen features an image that says "Worship Online" with a button to click to learn more. If you click this link it will bring up our Link Library, with the top line featuring a hyperlink to our church Facebook Page. The hyperlink looks like this:

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship on Facebook

2. Click the word "Facebook" and it will take you to our church's Facebook page. If you do not have a Facebook account, you may see an invitation to set up an account. You can decline this and still view our Facebook page. Shortly before 10 AM on Sundays, our live video feed from the Sanctuary should be the top post.

From your web browser:

1. Open your browser (Safari, Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, etc.)
2. In the address bar, type the URL (or web address) "facebook.com/claremontpres" to navigate to Claremont Presbyterian Church's Facebook page. On Sundays, just before 10, our livestream should be the first post you see.

From Facebook:

If you are already logged on to Facebook, type Claremont Presbyterian Church in the search bar. This will bring up a link to our CPC Facebook page at the top of the list of search results. If you have not already "liked" our church page, we encourage you to do so.

To find Archived Services from previous weeks:

Go to www.claremontpres.org. At the top of the page, click the Worship and Music tab. This will bring up a drop down menu. From this menu, click "Sermons". This will take you to a page with recorded services from previous weeks.

Many of our services, music, and educational offerings are also viewable on our church YouTube page. Go to YouTube.com and enter "Claremont Presbyterian Church" in the search bar. You'll see our channel close to the top of the page.



Alternative Christmas Market a Huge Success

What a generous congregation we have here at Claremont Presbyterian Church! The annual Alternative Christmas Market was not able to be held the way it has been in previous years, with a festive event in Fellowship Hall. The ACM was done completely by mail and online. That did not dampen the enthusiasm of our wonderful members and friends. As of this writing we have raised over \$11,000 for our worthy mission partners and orders are still trickling in. Thank you to all who have shared your blessings with those less fortunate!

Evening Prayer on the Lawn

Our outdoor evening services on the church lawn have provided a deeply meaningful opportunity to gather in person for worship and prayer since late June. During this darker, colder season, our Saturday Evening Prayer services will go on hiatus. We plan to begin again during Lent, which starts on February 17. See next month's Communicator for an update on plans and schedule.

Stewardship Update

As of December 15, we have received 115 pledges totaling \$438,283. This is 94% of our 2021 goal of \$465,000. Thank you to all who have been so generous! If you have not yet made your pledge to support Claremont Presbyterian Church and its ministries in 2021, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may call the office for a pledge card or pledge online at claremontpres.org/annual-pledge.

Memorial Service for Leanne Kerchner

There will be an online Memorial Service for Leanne Kerchner on Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 AM. Please call the church office after January 1 for details regarding platform and access.

Anti-Racism Groups Resume in January

In January we will return to weekly discussions. The resource will be the book titled, *Good White Racist?* by Kerry Connelly.

Connelly takes the perspective of church folks within the church. She also poses three possible action items at the end of each chapter (Learn, Think, Act). This will become the meat of our conversations as we encourage and explore how people have engaged any number of these action items.

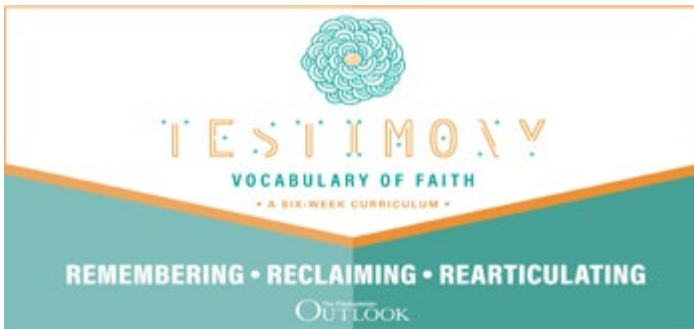
Join us Thursdays in January (7, 14, 21, 28) at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 837 0146 4185, passcode: 493373.

Adopt a Family



Instead of gathering in Fellowship Hall to pick and choose nametags and gift ideas off of our tree, Adopt-a-Family was listed among the many causes CPC looks forward to supporting each year at the Alternative Christmas Market. The Deacons goal was to raise \$1000.00 to purchase gift cards for five Uncommon Good families. What joyful news! Our members donated \$1150.00, going above and beyond our wish. This, together with carryover Adopt-a-Family funds, we now have enough to help two more families for a total of seven. Thank you for your continued generosity of spirit as well your support for these families in great need. In addition to CPC's support, the families at the Children Center wanted to be a part of the giving, so they chose nametags off of their tree then donated to Adopt-a-Family as well. Blessings abound! Thanks go to the following Deacons who made festive gift baskets for each family: Irene Atwood, Betty Butler, Karee Galloway, Christine Kolb, Kathy Leff, Rita Watts, and Lynn Miller. Their care adds a heartfelt touch to each gift. Thank you again to all who gave to this long held CPC tradition.

Your CPC Deacons



Wednesday Bible Study: Testimony- The Vocabulary of Faith

Beginning January 6, our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study will embark upon a study designed by The Presbyterian Outlook and leaders of NEXT Church. The authors invite us to begin with these words: “We are excited to offer this new curriculum, which we hope frees people to live their Reformed faith by remembering, reclaiming and rearticulating what we believe about who God is and who we are so the patterns of our lives embody the liberating love and grace of Jesus Christ.”

We know that life in the post-pandemic world will mean that followers of Jesus will need to communicate the gospel clearly and in new ways. CPC offers this bible study to equip us for the task. The Zoom Meeting ID for this gathering is 862 1883 9113

Waffle Church



This month’s Waffle Church is Sunday, January 17 at 10:00 AM. Let’s sing some songs, share in a story about Jesus meeting a new friend, get instructions for a fun craft, and share with each other our favorite breakfast to have for virtual Waffle Church. Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID: 846 0261 8002.

Alternative Christmas Market Breakdown

Adopt-a-Family	1150
Agingnext (Community Senior Services)	105
Angel Interfaith Network	375
Church World Service	221
CLASP	710
Claremont Meals On Wheels	195
Clinebell Institute	25
CPC Deacons	315
CPC Mission Commission	25
CPCC	830
Crossroads	520
Foothill AIDS Project	100
Habitat For Humanity	400
Heifer International	620
House of Ruth	852
Inland Valley Hope Partners	2189
Medical Benevolence Foundation	178
NEST	175
Pilgrim Place	555
Prison Library Project	240
Refugee Concerns Team	490
Tijuana Water Project	489
Uncommon Good	205

Adult Education Winter/Spring 2021

Adult Ed is on hiatus for the month of January. Instead, we encourage you to join others in either the Anti-Racism Reading Group or the Wednesday afternoon study with Pastor Karen...or join both.

Beginning in mid-February at Lent the Adult Ed team will be working with the pastors to provide a Lenten Study opportunity. Stay tuned for more details.

How to Give when there's no Offering Plate

No offering plate? No organ music? No problem. There are still ways to support your church during this time when we are worshipping online and outdoors. Here's how;

- Check: As long as the US Mail is still delivering, we can receive contributions by checks mailed to our church office.
- Online: You can make an online contribution to Claremont Presbyterian Church by navigating to our website at claremontpres.org/giving-2. You may also use the following QR code:
- Autopay from your checking account: Your bank should be able to help you set up an electronic payment directly to CPC. You may also make contributions through Zelle if your bank offers this electronic payment service.



WINTERFEST 2021

*workshops offered nightly
FEBRUARY 1 -5*

*plenary speaker: Bruce Reyes Chow
FEBRUARY 6*

watch sangabpres.org/wf for more information



The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

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Flowers for Worship

The worship flowers for the month of December were generously donated as follows:

December 5/6 were donated by: Sue Stoddard Goodspeed and Stu Stoddard, in loving memory of their mother, Marjorie Stoddard, and in honor of what would have been her 96th birthday, on December 4.

December 12/13 were donated by: Jean Perry, in honor of her son Richard's birthday.

December 19/20 were donated by Delight Slotemaker de Bruine, in loving memory of her mother, Caroline Bristol Slotemaker de Bruine and in honor of her birthday on December 23.

If you would like to donate worship flowers in 2021, either in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a significant event, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine (delight@claremontpres.org) to make arrangements. Flowers are designed by Sherwood's Florist. You may select colors, and flower themes. You may also designate how you would like the arrangement to be allocated. We can deliver the flowers to you, or the deacons can distribute the flowers in cheer bouquets.

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

The CPC Deacons, Pastors, and Congregational Care would like to thank the incredible generosity of our CPC members and friends. Through your generous donations, we were able to deliver 99 poinsettias to the homebound, isolated, ill, and bereaved, all of whom could use a little bit a Christmas cheer!

Donors and their dedications, received before the November 15 publication deadline, were listed in the December 2020 Communicator. The following is the list of additional poinsettia donors and dedications that arrived between then and December 16 with our most sincere gratitude. They are as follows:

Chinny and Nwojo Agwu in honor of our granddaughters Eva and Phoenix Agwu.

Sam & Irene Atwood in memory of Leanne Kerchner.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 11/30/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$405,792.87	\$391,660.00
Other Income	\$133,263.96	\$99,447.26
Expenses	-\$524,041.73	-\$549,791.71
Variance	-\$15,015.10	-\$19,518.45
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$466,303.20	\$833,928.26
Expenses	-\$720,273.28	-\$833,927.27
Variance*	-\$253,970.08	\$.99
*Note: these numbers do NOT include the PPP Loan amount. This income will be included once the loan is forgiven.		

Sharron Bentley in memory of William & Andrew Bentley, Marilynn Serret, Edith Fellenbaum.

Christine Blair in memory of Marvin Steinmetz (Tina Blair's Husband).

Bill & Kim Brinegar in memory of John & Elouise Brinegar, Anna Park Sanger, and William E. Park Jr.

Betty Butler in honor of Jen, Patrick, Tim, Rachel, and Felix.

Mary and Saba Elyousef in memory of our parents: Nassima, Esber, Jamileh, and Jamal.

Carol, John, Catherine Loper in memory of Reverend William L. Loper.

Lynn and Kent Miller in memory of our mothers - Melba Miller & Dorothy Norris.

Jean Perry in memory of Lynel - husband and Robert & Lucy - parents.

Nancy Rice in memory of her husband, Howard Rice; daughter, Wendy Rice Dreitcer, son John Price.



Please Lift Up Your Prayers

As we share in the grief of our friends and in the celebration of the life of our loved ones and friends, who have entered the space reserved for them with Christ, we lift up our prayers for: the Kohnen family on the death of Will's father, Heinrich Kohnen on December 20; the family of Susie Cave, for the passing of Bob Cave on December 18; the

family of Phoebe DeVille, for her niece, who passed away from Covid; the family of Rev. Richard (Dick) Hettish, who passed away on Friday, November 27, the family of Jeanne Masters, whose son-in-law, Bob DeJournet, passed away on Monday, November 30; the family of Charles Kerchner, whose beloved wife, and CPC Deacon, Leanne Kerchner, passed away on Friday, November 27; the family of Frank DeLeo, whose beloved wife, Phyllis Joy DeLeo, passed away on Thanksgiving eve, November 26; the family of Joy Beanland who passed away on November 25; and the family of Octavio Guerrero, whose father passed away.

We offer praise, and gratitude to the Lord, for successful surgeries, and continued healing for: Ron Perry; Trish Perry; Frank Pinkerton; John Watts; Gennie Ransom; Chikondi Tamaona.

As we lift up those for whom we ask for healing, for strength, for courage, for the grace, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit, we pray for: Catherine Taylor's mother-in-law, Kay, living at Plymouth Place in Redlands, and has just tested positive for COVID-at age 91; Bob and Joan Kelly; Bill Wellwood, a Claremont resident who is a professional Clarinetist, colleague and friend of Linda Silva-has cancer of the salivary gland-requested prayers for recovery from surgery on December 17; Nancy Rice; Cloyce Morrow, for upcoming breast cancer post-surgery treatment; Bruce Shervington, Roger Shervington's brother, as he continues to be challenged, following cancer surgery; Chinny Agwu as she receives treatment for relief from chronic knee and hip pain; Carolyn Whitham; Sacha Lord's daughter-in-law, Joanna Lord's mother and father, Maria and Mike Lai, as he recovers from hand surgery in rehab; former CPCC teacher, Judith Rios, who has stage four bone cancer; Suzanne Brown and her son Jay, Kay Brown, the family of Barb MacKenzie, for Barb's mother, continuing treatment; Jean Perry, Lenore Brashler, Jim Brashler, Chris Hartmire, Thom Bleakney, Ruth Auld, Phoebe DeVille, Jane Glenn, John Najarian, Jean Underwood, Chet & Eileen Jaeger, Lee & Claire McDonald, Mike Layne, Barbara Myers, Mary & Ed Hughes, Sandra Deibel

Should you or anyone in your family, or anyone of whom you know, be in need of prayer, and you have their permission to share their name, please email your requests to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed. Or, you may wish to include details. Details are shared only as per your direction, otherwise, then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.



COMMUNICATOR

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for February *Communicator* - January 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

- 10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)
- 10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Toddler Sunday School (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Early Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)
- 1:00 PM - Tweens Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday

- 4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday

- 5:00 PM - Community Yoga (Zoom)
- 6:30 PM - Anti-Racist Group (Zoom)

Friday

- 8:00 AM - Morning Meditation (Online Meditation Chapel)

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

- 8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)
- 11:30 AM - Quarantine Interlude (Facebook)
- 5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook)



claremontpres.org



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[claremont_pres](https://www.instagram.com/claremont_pres)



[giving](#)

For links to all these events, visit claremontpres.org/weekly-schedule